More Filipinos going hungry, says survey

STORY ON PAGE A2

Holy Week holidays

NOW the good news: Wednesday, April 11, will be a half-day holiday and Saturday, April 14, a non-working day.

The Office of the President made the holiday announcement yesterday to "give the people an opportunity to observe the Holy Week appropriately," a Palace press release said.

April 9 (Araw ng Kagitingan), April 12 (Holy Thursday) and April 13 (Good Friday) are regular holidays.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2001 ★ 84 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL. 16 NO. 120 ₱15

WITH THIS ISSUE

All about élan

- Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco
- Nature Trip to China
- Premium Zobel
- PAL is 60

'THE TORMENT IS OVER'

Buan release sets stage for gov't-NDF peace talks on April 18

BY CARLITO PABLO AND DELFIN MALLARI AND JOEL JABAL
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MANSALAY, Oriental Mindoro—Army Maj. Noel Buan rushed into the arms of his wife Cielo and daughter Noelle Jenina at 4 p.m. yesterday at a dusty basketball court in Barangay Baet in this mountainous coastal town.

"Daddy, daddy," cried Noelle Jenina as she embraced and kissed her father whom she had not seen for 21 months.

Buan's 12-year-old daughter cried amid applause and the singing of revolutionary songs by sympathizers of the New People's Army (NPA).

Today, President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to meet with Buan in Malacañang.

The bearded Buan was walking with a slight limp when his wife and daughter met him.

Buan and his family were immediately given 15 minutes of private time. They were ushered into a room at Mangyan Education Center fronting the basketball court.

"At last my prayers have been answered," Cielo said at a press conference following the release of her husband.

"The torment is over. Noel has been turned over by the grace of God," she said.

Another NPA hostage, Chief Inspector Abelardo Martin, was hit by a stray bullet in an alleged encounter between rebels and government troops in Quezon last month. He bled to death in the jungle as bad weather prevented his evacuation by helicopter.

The NPA had earlier announced plans to release Buan with Martin, who had been hostage since November 1999.

Buan said he would be returning to active military service.

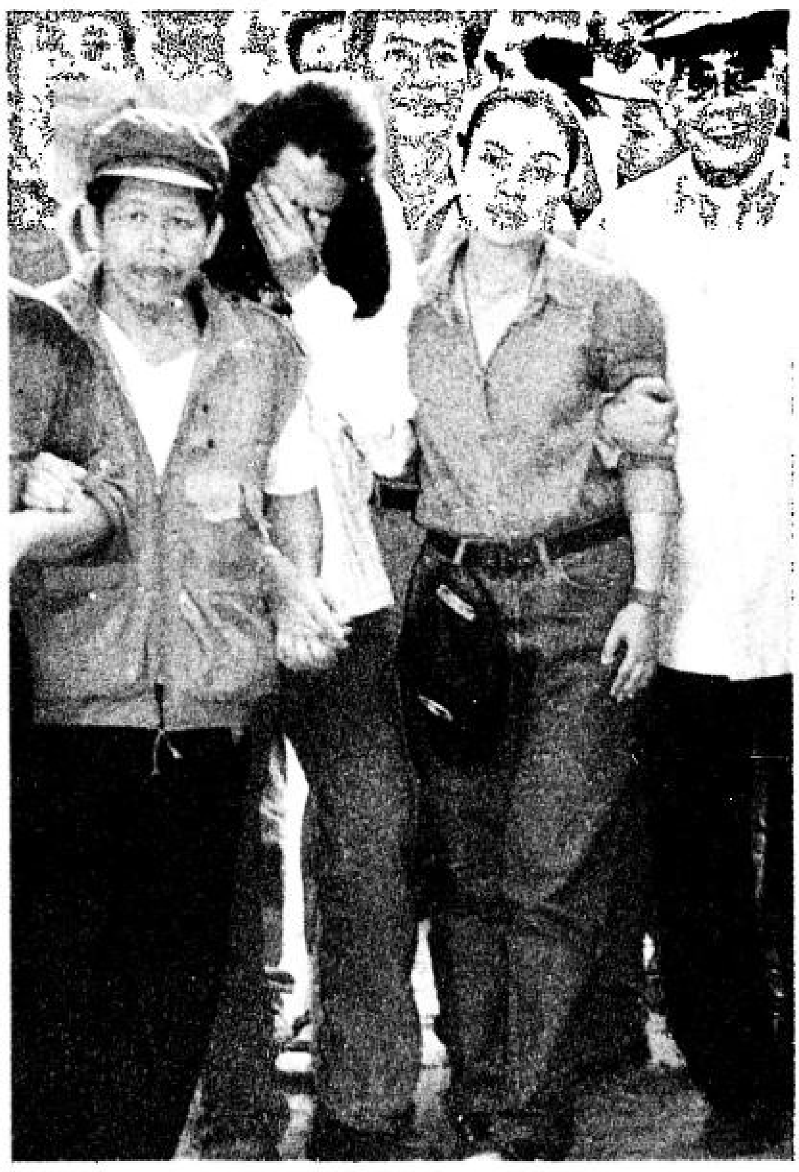
"I have to continue in the service," said Buan whose hair had grown past his shoulder. A part of his hair was tied in a ponytail with a blue rubber band.

Asked how he felt about the release, Buan said "Perhaps I need not talk about it because you (already) know the emotion."

When pressed, Buan said, "*Siyempre masaya* (Of course, I'm

THE TORMENT/ A17

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS



NO WORDS, just tears which say it all for that moment when Army Maj. Noel Buan is reunited with wife Cielo and only child, Jenina, in Barangay Baet, Mansalay, Mindoro Oriental (top). At last a father's touch for Jenina (above). More tears (right) for Buan flanked by Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the communist party; Sen. Loren Legarda and Bishop Capalla of the humanitarian mission. Behind is Satur Ocampo.

Estrada bares Gloria offer: Resign and you're free

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

DURING Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo personally made the embattled leader an offer: Resign and no charges will be filed against you.

Ten days after Ms Macapagal was sworn into office, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez made him another offer: Resign and you can leave the country.

The indicted former President made these two claims yesterday, following reports that his lawyers had new evidence to prove that the Macapagal administration had tried to convince Estrada to resign after he left Malacañang on Jan. 20.

"I have not said this to the local newspapers up to now. During the impeachment, Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband went to the office of a good friend of mine, Atty. Manny (Manuel) Zamora," Estrada said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"If I resign, I can go free," he said, recalling the offer the Arroyos allegedly made in Zamora's Makati office.

"If I stepped down, they would see to it that no charges would be filed against me," Estrada stressed.

"But I strongly objected to that when my friend told me about it," he said.

ESTRADA BARES/ A4

Erap cases could drag on for years

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, MARTIN P. MARFIL AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

BEFORE they can issue an arrest warrant on Joseph Estrada, the five divisions of the Sandiganbayan have 10 days each to determine probable cause in the criminal cases that have been assigned to them.

The issuance of the warrant "will depend on the justices' appreciation" of the evidence submitted by government prosecutors, said Justice Minita Chico Nazaria, acting presiding officer of the anti-graft court.

Yesterday afternoon, the Sandigan raffled off to the five divisions the eight criminal cases filed against Estrada, including the non-bailable charge of plunder.

The plunder charge, also known as Case No. 26558, has been assigned to the third division chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy, with Lourdes de Castro and Ricardo

ERAP/ A17

Yellow-ribbon welcome for returning soldier

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE YELLOW ribbons that signified almost two years of waiting for the long-lost man of the house remained on the windows and door of Unit B6 at the Philippine Army Officers' Village in Fort Bonifacio.

But now, the ribbons were overshadowed by a banner that spelled the end of the agonizing wait: "Welcome home Daddy."

Army Maj. Noel Buan's daughter Noelle Jenina, 12, was not the only one expecting the arrival of the New People's Army captive who had left the apartment unit in July 1999.

"We're so happy. These kids haven't seen their uncle for two years, and they

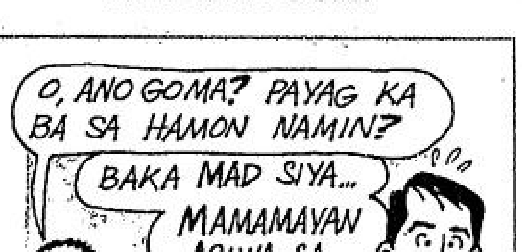
YELLOW-RIBBON/ A17

Goma dared: Debate, if you can

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

GOMA should consider himself challenged. Leaders of the youth arm of "true" party-list group Akbayan yesterday dared actor Richard Gomez, nominee of the "pseudo" party-list group Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), to face them in a debate, preferably televised.

DEBATE/ A4


O, ANO GOMA? PAYAG KA BA SA HAMON NAMIN?
BAKA MAD SIYA... MAMAMAYAN ASIWA SA DEBATE!!

Estrada in jail? Inmates thrilled

BY TJ BURGONIO, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

THE VERDICT is still out on where to detain deposed President Estrada when and if a warrant for his arrest is issued. But already inmates of the Quezon City Jail are thrilled by the very thought that Estrada would be among them.

Should Estrada be assigned to a single cell with 50 other inmates, they are prepared to shower him with privileges, especially the first use of the communal toilet each day, said Venancio Roxas, president of the inmates' organization Kapit-Bisig 2000.

"We'll make sure that he won't have to line up and wait for his turn like the other inmates," he said of the ousted leader, who is known to have a fetish for squeaky clean, luxurious bathrooms.

Each of the jail's 40 congested cells is furnished with a toilet, which doubles as a bathroom. Under the rules, an inmate is allowed only five to 10 minutes' use of the toilet.

Estrada may not have to suffer indignity of lining up for his turn at the loo. Senatorial candidate Perfecto Yasay Jr. has proposed that Estrada should be placed under house arrest instead of sending him to jail during the trial for the cases filed against him by the Ombudsman.

He told a news conference in Dumaguete City yesterday that the issue

ESTRADA IN JAIL/ A4

DUMADAMI ANG NAGUGUTOM!

Second FRONT PAGE

More Pinoys go hungry–SWS

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

MORE FILIPINOS are going to bed hungry every night, even though fewer people joined the ranks of the poor.

This was the finding of the most recent socioeconomic survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations, which recorded the highest incidence of hunger in the country in the last three years even as the incidence of poverty rose just three percentage points over the same period.

This dire picture of the country's situation was in sharp contrast to the findings of another survey firm, Pulse Asia, which showed a steep rise in the awareness and approval ratings of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the four other top officials of the land.

Mahar Mangahas, SWS head, said the findings on the incidence of hunger were more significant than the incidence of poverty since the former was at a record high 16.1 percent.

This means that 16 percent of the 1,500 respondents experienced having nothing to eat at least once over the past three months.

The SWS conducts surveys every quarter and questions on poverty and hunger are stock inquiries. These are not commissioned and are included on SWS' own initiative.

The previous record high of the incidence of hunger was 14.5 percent in November 1998.

The recent survey, conducted March 5-18, also showed that six percent of the respondents experienced "severe hunger," or having nothing to eat "often" or "always."

The figure on severe hunger was also a record high, the previous record being the 5.3 percent recorded by the SWS also in November 1998.

The Visayas and Mindanao showed the highest incidence of hunger at 20 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

Mangahas said the rise in the incidence of poverty between December 2000 and March 2001 was significant since the margin of error of the survey was plus or minus 2.5 percent.

The incidence of poverty rose three points to 59 percent in March this year from 56 percent in December 2000.

The self-rated approach was used by the SWS in monitoring poverty. Respondents were asked to say whether their respective households were poor, not poor or in between.

But even as more Filipinos were in dire straits, Pulse Asia recorded increased approval for the President and other top officials of the country.

The Pulse Asia survey was conducted between March 8-21 covering 1,200 respondents nationwide. The margin of error was plus or minus three percent with a 95-percent confidence level.

President Macapagal posted the highest gain in net approval rating, from four points in December 2000 to 48 points in the March 2001 survey, for a gain of 44 points.

Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide Jr. posted the next highest improvement in net approval rating from 21 points in December 2000 to 53 percent in the most recent survey.

The highest net approval rating was recorded, however, by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. with 57 points. His approval rating went up 27 points from his previous rating of 30 percent in December 2000.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. had a net approval rating of 48 percent, up 24 points from when he was a senator in December 2000.

House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. got a net approval rating of 29 points, up 25 points from the time he was a prosecutor in the impeachment court that tried former President Joseph Estrada.

"At the time the survey was conducted, the country was reeling from a historic series of events. Concerns regarding the legitimacy and longevity of the Macapagal administration were being raised and it took the Supreme Court to settle the issue," Pulse Asia said in a press statement.

The Visayas and the National Capital Region recorded worsened poverty situations, at 76 percent and 39 percent, respectively, in the latest SWS survey. Previously, the incidence of poverty incidence in the two areas was at 69 percent and 28 percent, respectively.

Mindanao's rating improved six percentage points, down to 64 percent in March from 70 percent in December 2000. The incidence of poverty in Luzon remained unchanged at 56 percent.

But perhaps the most telling fact about the SWS survey is that majority of Filipinos are living in poverty at 59 percent and, as the survey showed, the likelihood is the number will increase.

Romulo warns SE Asia of threat from hi-tech China

SINGAPORE—China will eclipse the once-booming economies of Southeast Asia if they don't quickly develop their Internet and other high-tech sectors, government and business officials said yesterday.

The Internet is "a vehicle for more trade and investment," said Roberto Romulo, chair of a task force to develop computer and communications technology in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

He noted that China will soon join the World Trade Organization and has many more Internet users than do Asean countries.

Asean "will be bypassed if we don't get our collective act together" to get the region online, in order to take advantage of Internet commerce, business networking and other opportunities offered by the world's new information-driven economy, Romulo said.

Southeast Asia's development and its reputation among investors were devastated by the region's recent economic crisis, which peaked in 1998, conference delegates said.

"Everybody's going to China now," Romulo said. "In 1997 and before that, the allure of Asean was there. "Now, in 2002, we have to work hard to be paid attention to."

Foreign direct investment in Asean grew by more than 10 percent annually between 1995 and 1997, but plunged by 20 percent per year between 1998 and 2000, said Singapore Minister for Communications and Information Technology Yeo Cheow Tong.

"Nearly four-fifths of all foreign direct investment coming into Asean and East Asia, excluding Japan, goes to China," Yeo said in an opening speech at the conference.

Asean's share of the world's exports to the crucial United States market has also shrunk since before the crisis, while China's has risen sharply, Yeo said. *AP*

Fil-Am one of 24 in US spy plane

BY JENNIE L. ILUSTRE
PDI Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—A Filipino American may be one of the 24 crew members of the United States Navy surveillance plane which collided with a Chinese fighter jet on Hainan island last Sunday, a US congressional aide, quoting US Navy sources, confirmed on Thursday.

A certain Petty Officer Mercado—no first name was supplied—was a Filipino American who was born in Manila, said Al Santoli, special assistant for national security and foreign policy of Rep. Dana Rohrabacher.

Santoli said there was limited information on Mercado who, with the rest of the crew, was being detained on Hainan island as the standoff between China and the US entered its sixth day yesterday.

The damaged new EP-3E surveillance aircraft made an emergency landing on the island after the collision. The Chinese fighter pilot involved in the incident is still missing after bailing out of his jet.

Rohrabacher, the Republican congressman from California who was a recent Manila visitor, earlier told Philippine Embassy officials here that Mercado appeared to be of Philippine ancestry.

An embassy official reported having seen Mercado's parents being interviewed on CNN, remarking that the mother looked like a Filipina.

The US Navy has cited the US Privacy Act in declining to make a comment, said Consul Patricia Ann V. Paez.

But a Pentagon spokesperson told the INQUIRER that a certain Petty Officer Mercado, 24, from Marino Valley, California, was one of the plane's crew members. He said Mercado enlisted on May 30, 1996.

"Mercado's ethnicity is not a concern, but the fact that he is a US citizen serving his country—that is the important issue," said Lt. Doug Spencer, the Pentagon spokesperson.

In Manila, senior government officials yesterday urged China and the US to resolve their dispute so as to avoid escalating regional tensions.

"We don't want any tension. The two countries had good relations and this matter is the cause of tension which affects everybody," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said in an interview with radio station dzXL.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the Philippines had cordial relations with both countries and hoped the issue would be resolved quickly and diplomatically.

A top foreign affairs official said the US was courting a renewed "cold war" with China after it chose to convey only its "regrets" rather than apologize for the incident.

He expressed concern that the Philippines could find itself caught in the middle of a row between the two superpowers.

"If this is not solved, the room for diplomacy will be narrowed and something other than diplomacy could take over," said the official, who asked not to be named.

With reports from Rocky Nazareno and AFP

COP IN TROUBLE

Dacer case suspect defies NBI

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND JOLENE BOLAMBOT,
PDI Visayas Bureau

POLICE Supt. Teofilo Viña, tagged as one of the alleged masterminds in the unsolved disappearance of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, may be in deep trouble for defying a subpoena for him to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Viña's non-appearance prompted NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco to order that criminal charges be filed against the former top official of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Wycoco said that in refusing to appear at the NBI yesterday, Viña was explicitly waiving his right to answer the allegations against him.

"We subpoenaed Viña and it is his call to appear or not. His non-appearance only shows that he does not want to explain his side," Wycoco said in an interview.

In Cebu City, Viña told the INQUIRER that he did not show up at the NBI yesterday because he was afraid that he was being "set up."

In a phone interview, Viña said that he did not trust the NBI because the agency had already tagged him as the mastermind in the Dacer case.

Besides, he added, he was not able to hire a lawyer. "Even if I showed up, I would not talk. I would invoke my right to remain silent," he said.

He said he would rather wait for the case to be filed at the Department of Justice, which would be the proper forum to answer the allegations.

Wycoco could not say if Viña is to be charged with kidnapping and murder, saying the charges were still being studied by Samuel Ong, the NBI chief for the National Capital Region who is supervising the investigation.

Wycoco subpoenaed Viña on Tuesday after confessed suspects Jimmy Lopez and Alex Diloy said that it was Viña who allegedly supervised the surveillance, kidnapping and killing of Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

Most of the PAOCTF members who were charged before the justice department in connection with the Nov. 24 abduction of Dacer and Corbito were members of the PAOCTF Task Force Visayas which was directly under Viña in the previous administration.

Ballots for sale? Yes, says Lakas

BY G. LACUARTA

THE COMMISSION on Elections' worst nightmare appears to be coming true.

Blank ballots for the May 14 elections are allegedly being spirited out of the National Printing Office (NPO) and sold to political parties by unscrupulous Comelec personnel.

The ruling Lakas-NUCD-UMDP party yesterday said a casual employee of the Comelec assigned to the NPO, identified as Antonio M. Galang, offered sometime in March to sell genuine ballots at P25 apiece to Alexis Francis Reyes, a watcher for the party assigned to the printing office.

Reyes, in an affidavit executed April 3, said Galang gave him three ballots as samples and as proof of his ability to deliver the real thing.

Reyes said Galang handed the ballots to him at the NPO canteen, which is outside the restricted area at the printing office.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo confirmed he was informed of the incident by Lakas. He said he has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to probe the allegations.

"This gives us great cause for alarm," Benipayo told NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco in a letter.

Reporters were furnished photocopies of the purloined ballots at a news conference arranged by Lakas at the National Press Club yesterday.

Two of the ballots were intended for Santa Rita, Samar, and bore serial numbers on the upper and lower portions that did not match.

One ballot had the serial numbers 0013989 and 0001986 on its face, while the other bore the numbers 0099991 and 0099996.

Lakas, in a statement, said chemical tests on one of the ballots showed it was made of the same paper used by the Comelec for official ballots.

The ballots also had all the watermarks and secret markings used by the Comelec, it said.

Benipayo, however, would neither confirm nor deny if the ballots allegedly handed over by Galang to Reyes were genuine on the basis of photocopies alone.

He theorized the ballots were spoiled ones since they had mismatched serial numbers. Spoiled ballots, he said, are separated to be destroyed later.

Benipayo nevertheless expressed alarm that even spoiled ballots could be taken out of the NPO.

"This is something that is sensitive. We are concerned about this, that's why I asked the NBI to step in," he said.

Lakas said the peddling of ballots was the handiwork of a well-entrenched syndicate at the Comelec and called for the resignation of Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco who chairs the poll body's printing committee.

"Tancangco showed gross incompetence in failing to prevent the pilferage of official ballots at the NPO," Lakas said.

'Paeng' de Jesus dies; 56

RAFAEL "Paeng" de Jesus Jr., a modern experimental artist, died of colon cancer in New York City on Feb. 4, 2001. He was 56.

Paeng's remains were buried at the Loyola Memorial Park with only family members present.

A simple memorial service for Paeng will be held at 10 a.m. today, Saturday, at the SM Megamall Chapel. Attendees are requested to omit flowers.

The Art Association of the Philippines is also planning a posthumous art exhibit in honor of Paeng and his works on his first death anniversary next year.

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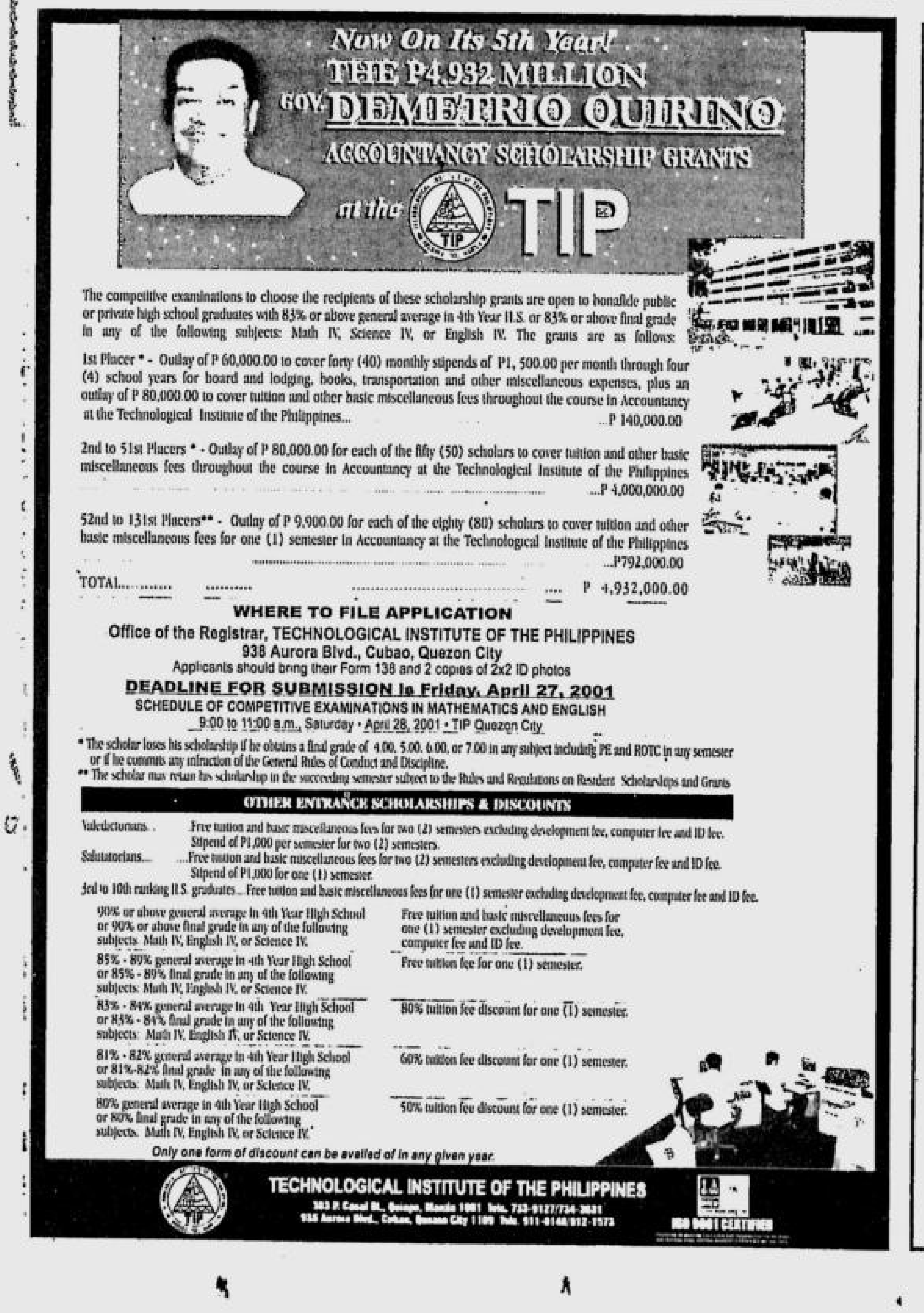
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0831, Series of 2000

DENR poised to pull plug on controversial dolphin show

By C. Balana

THE DAYS of the controversial dolphin show at Subic Bay are numbered.

Yesterday the Department of Environment and Natural Resources asserted that it was the only agency qualified to issue Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECC), thus ensuring the closure of the marine show at the Camayan Wharf at the freeport.

In a report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez said. "The department ascertains its authority over activities that significantly affect the environment, particularly in the processing and issuance of ECCs for all environmentally critical areas."

The swim-with-the-dolphins project of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc. (SBME) had met stiff resistance from environmentalists even before it started operating on Feb. 12.

The concerned groups charged the dolphin show destroyed the complex social structure of the sea animals it uses, as well as the coral and the marine ecosystem at the freeport.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority earlier claimed it had the power to issue an ECC to the operator of the dolphin show under the SBMA charter.

Alvarez, however, asserted the DENR has the sole authority to issue ECCs under Section 4 of Presidential Decree 1586, or the Environmental Impact Statement which was strengthened with the issuance of the Administrative Code 300 of 1996.

In fact, Alvarez said, the SBMA recognized the DENR's authority when it applied for and was issued ECCs for at least two projects—the SBMA-Tipo Road project and the Subic Bay power project.

In addition, he said, ECC applications for the Concrete Gravity Structure Project and the Shell Malampaya Gas project are pending at his department.

A DENR investigative task force confirmed the show had no ECC, that marine specimens were imported, transported and collected without permits, and issues on animal welfare had been left unanswered.

On March 12, the DENR Region III office issued a cease-and-desist order against the SBMA but it met stiff resistance from the organizers of the show.

Alvarez also sought confirmation of reports that one of the dolphins in the show has died.

Earlier, environmental groups worldwide denounced the swim-with-the-dolphins project. Protest letters flooded the DENR asking it to stop the project.

PCGG vows Marcos cases finished soon

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday vowed to wrap up the prosecution of the Marcoses and their cronies within two years following the political momentum from the "Estrada episode."

PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento said the PCGG and Office of the Solicitor General were working overtime to finish the Marcos cases. He also expressed confidence that the Sandiganbayan would resolve these cases soon.

Sarmiento and newly appointed PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. also ruled out compromise agreements with the Marcos family and their associates, most of whom were also associated with the deposed president Joseph Estrada.

"We will be ready this time," Sarmiento told a press conference yesterday. "We don't want to add another 15 years to this. Too much time has elapsed."

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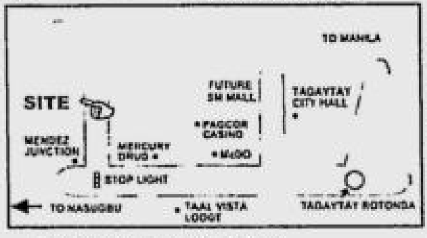

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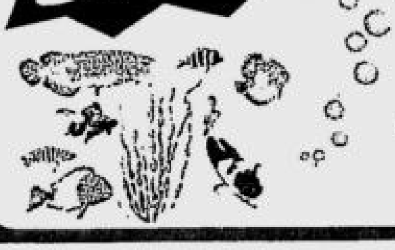

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Estrada bares Gloria offer: Resign and you're free

(From page A1)

He said that he told Zamora, the brother of former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, that he was not guilty of the impeachment charges leveled against him.

"I have done no wrong. I am not guilty of the charges. I can face all those charges," Estrada said he told Manny Zamora.

The offers did not stop there, he claimed.

"Ten days after the administration of Mrs. Arroyo (was installed) her Cabinet secretary met me, and offered me that I can leave the country and choose the country I could go provided I resign (sic)," Estrada said.

The offer was repeated during a second meeting when Perez told Estrada that he had the option not to resign but would have to leave the country through a "backdoor," according to the ousted president.

'Win-win'

In that second meeting, Perez told him that the administration had come up with a "win-win" situation, Estrada said.

"If the Supreme Court decides in my favor, they can just declare a revolutionary form of government. So that means, even the Supreme Court justices can lose their jobs because they can be abolished," he added, quoting Perez.

He added that because of such a threat, the Supreme Court "might" have been pressured into upholding the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

But " I'm not saying that the Supreme Court has been . . . pressured. I am saying that it might have been pressured," Estrada said.

'If I were guilty. . .'

The revelations came yesterday, the same day that his lawyers filed a petition to stop legal proceedings against Estrada. *(Story on Page A1.)*

The deposed leader made the remarks in an attempt to show that charges filed against him in the Sandiganbayan were baseless.

"If I were guilty, I could have accepted that offer (to leave the country) during that time and fled. If I had enriched myself, that would have been the most opportune time to leave," Estrada said in Filipino.

"The problem was that I was projected differently before the public. They ganged up on me. I could not do anything. But history will judge me," he added.

The still popular former president warned the government that he would not be able to control his supporters if authorities tried to arrest him.

He said that some of his supporters had expressed their desire to launch massive rallies in his support.

"I cannot promise I can control the people. They'll be doing it on their own," he said.

"I cannot foresee what will happen. So many supporters, including those from the provinces, are already hot. (They want to hold) demonstrations and rallies," he also said.

He said that "I discouraged them because I told them that we have to first exhaust all legal remedies."

Later, he remarked: "As I said before, I cannot be part of any destabilization of the government because our economy will be affected and . . . the poor people will suffer most."

No fair trial

He said that he did not expect a fair trial under the Macapagal administration.

"Right now, my feeling is that I cannot get a fair trial under this administration. They're very much in a hurry to put me behind bars," Estrada said.

"I'm still hoping and praying—although I think this is already far-fetched—to get a fair trial," he said at another point in the interview.

"I am very confident that if I get a fair trial, I will be acquitted," he said.

He claimed that the Ombudsman and the justice department were merely on a "fishing expedition" and had not come up with a single contract proving that he had personally profited from the presidency.

So frustrated

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected Estrada's motion asking it to reconsider its earlier ruling legitimizing the Macapagal presidency and stripping him of immunity.

"I feel so frustrated especially when the decision was based on a newspaper account and a diary," the ousted president said, referring to a personal account of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara of the last days of the Estrada presidency.

The account was published in the INQUIRER and quoted heavily by the high tribunal in its first decision.

Estrada said he believed that the government was desperately trying to legitimize itself by attacking him.

"Its intention is really to discredit me all the way so there would be no point in questioning the legitimacy of this government," he said.

He said that the Macapagal administration was actually a form of "mob rule," and repeated earlier remarks on the alleged unconstitutionality of his ouster.

"I am incidental. What I am fighting for is the Constitution. I'm afraid that if we tolerate this kind of (succession), we'll just become a banana republic," he added.

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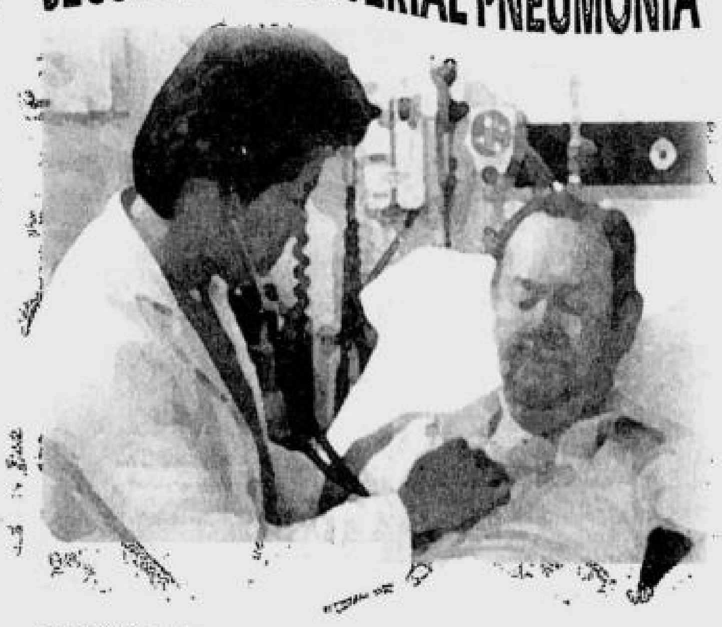


Estrada in jail? Inmates thrilled

(From page A1)

on whether or not Estrada should be jailed remains a divisive one for Filipinos.

"I think we can achieve the objectives of the law and I think we can serve the substantive ends of justice by just placing him under house arrest and restrict his movements so we can show that our justice system has a humane face, especially that the one being tried and is presumed to be innocent is a former President," said Yasay, the former chair of the Securities and Exchange commission who testified for the prosecution at the impeachment trial of Estrada.

Other alternatives

On the other hand, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon Jr. shot down the house arrest scenario. He said the law does not allow it if the accused is charged with a capital offense like plunder.

Instead, Biazon suggested detention for the ex-President in Camps Aguinaldo or Crame.

Either of the two sites, said the senator, would accord Estrada quarters befitting a former President and at the same time secure Estrada as some "elements" claim that his arrest would spark a mass uprising.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had called for an "Edsa III" to restore the ousted President to office in the campaign sorties of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa. Estrada's wife had also warned of a revolt if her husband is arrested.

Asked if his suggestion may be perceived as giving Estrada the VIP treatment, Biazon said: "Why not? Why are we allowing VIP treatment to some convicts, and remember Estrada is not yet convicted."

He cited the special treatment of Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos and ex-Mayor Antonio Sanchez.

"So, why raise this issue against a former President who has yet to be convicted?"

But that's trivia to leftist groups like Bayan Muna and the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)who want Estrada arrested now. Sandiganbayan Justice Francis Garchitorena had pointed out that Office of the Ombudsman might have committed procedural lapses when it failed to give Estrada the mandated five-day period to answer the charges filed against him.

"By dealing so much on this triviality, Sandiganbayan is wittingly or unwittingly allowing the deposed President to evade prosecution, arrest and imprisonment," said Raymond Palatino, Bayan Muna spokesperson.

Citizens' arrest

The KMU is advocating citizens' arrest for Estrada if the government fails to put him in jail due to legal constraints.

In Davao City, Felix Irag, KMU-Southern Mindanao secretary general, said that people power may be needed again to arrest Estrada as it appears that the Macapagal administration lacks the political will to send the former President to jail.

The National Democratic Front (NDF) warned that unrest would follow if Estrada is not arrested.

NDF political consultant Jose Ma. Sison belittled the capability of Estrada to rouse public support. He said that if every person Estrada would "hire to demonstrate in his favor," the broad united front that toppled him could "easily raise a thousand people against him."

Politicized

Yasay pointed out that the problem with the Estrada issue is that it had become very politicized.

"Even before the case had been filed before the Sandiganbayan, government officials had already been making pronouncements about the guilt of the former President. And that's not good, especially if you're doing this during election time because you're creating the impression that you're doing this for political reasons," he said.

Many people, Yasay said, still believe that the charges against Estrada are part of a political vendetta and a political ploy to defeat the candidates of the opposition because they are identified with the former President.

Hospitality

For a different reason, the celebrity-struck Quezon City jail inmates are looking forward to Estrada's jailing. But they are also worried for his health, that it would surely deteriorate if he stays in a seedy, congested jail like theirs.

Apart from boredom and the restriction on his movements, he would have to cope with the congestion, poor ventilation and sanitation and heat especially in summer, Roxas, the president of the inmates' organization, said.

As for the toilet, Estrada is assured of having the first crack at it.

On weekdays, the inmates with court hearings are given top priority when it comes to toilet use. Otherwise, everybody lines up by marking their place with their soap cases on the floor.

And since Estrada is not likely to be allowed to bring in his own bed, the inmates will be happy to give up their home-made wooden, rickety beds for him, Roxas said.

Again, only the most senior inmates, those with longer years in jail, are allowed the luxury of having a wooden bed built for themselves inside the cramped cells while the rest lie on sleeping mats or on the cold floor.

"We're willing to make these sacrifices for a former President and a good action star. This is all part of Filipino hospitality," Roxas, who has spent six years in jail, said in an interview.

Despite the inmates' sentiments, jail officials have ruled out any VIP treatment for Estrada in case he's incarcerated there, saying that he had to share a cell and the jail's other facilities, including the toilet, with the rest of the inmates, including over 150 women.

Jail authorities suggested the larger Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center in Bicutan, Taguig as a better alternative.

"Here, he will surely suffer from a variety of ailments," he said, recalling a priest-inmate whose *bungang-araw* (prickly heat) developed into *pigsa* (boils) in the first few days of his incarceration.

Menu

Roxas also reckoned that Estrada, who knows how to cook, wouldn't take any of the jail's daily food ration of *tinolang manok, tuyo and gulay* (Boiled chicken, dried fish and vegetables).

While a nutritionist supervises the preparation of food, the food often lacks ingredients, said Roxas, who claimed that it took him a month before he could adjust to jail food.

"He'll be forced to order his own food from outside the jail or his relatives would have to bring him food each day," he suggested. ***With reports from Andrea T. Echavez and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Goma dared: Debate, if you can

(From page A1)

"This challenge comes in good faith. We just want to give him a venue to articulate himself and convince us that aside from hiring consultants, he has his own ideas for the advancement of the youth's welfare," Akbayan Youth chair Jonas Bagas said at a press conference in Quezon City.

Bagas was reacting to an interview with Gomez published in last week's Sunday INQUIRER wherein the actor, asked to expound on his style of governance, said he would "definitely have consultants knowledgeable in particular matters."

"He should prove to us that he is fit for the position he is vying for. For all we know, because of certain limitations, he was not able to clarify his points," Bagas said.

Akbayan Youth aired its challenge to Gomez as it launched "Gen X," a campaign aimed at educating voters to vote against traditional politicians.

Marie Cris Cabreros, Akbayan Youth spokesperson, said the campaign would be directed against not only traditional politicians seeking national or local posts but also "pseudo party-list groups" represented by traditional politicians.

The issue of supposedly bogus party-list groups continued to elicit public outrage days after it was exposed that more than half of the 163 groups accredited by the Commission on Elections had nominees identified with disgraced leader Joseph Estrada or big political parties.

A number of "true" party-list groups and civil society organizations came together the other day to denounce the Comelec for the considered blunder and vowed to block the dubious groups from taking part in the May 14 elections.

Brains

Yesterday, Bayan Muna accused Estrada, his erstwhile adviser Robert Aventajado, and former police chief Panfilo Lacson of being the brains behind the proliferation of such "pseudo" party-list groups.

Bayan Muna said in a statement that the Estrada camp wanted to dominate the next Congress by fielding the ex-president's men as candidates.

"The pro-Erap camp is using the legislative track to get back at key players of People Power II and write off the verdict against Estrada," it said.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said he was supporting calls for the disqualification of more than half of the 163 accredited party-list groups.

Gerry Albert-Corpuz, information officer of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, also expressed support for the purging of party-list groups and urged the people not to vote for those identified with Estrada.

Corpuz said among the groups that should be purged were MAD, Bagong Bayani, Sports and Health Development Foundation, Philippine Local Autonomy, Bantay Bayan Abakada, Ahonbayan, Kabataan ng Masang Pilipino and Jeep Ni Erap.

Delay

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales yesterday blamed her colleagues in the House of Representatives for delaying the passage of her pet bill seeking to amend the Party-List Law.

The bill seeks to limit party-list representation to marginalized and underrepresented sectors and bar big political parties from taking part in the party-list elections.

Rosales said the proposed amendments to RA Act 7941 had been approved on second reading by the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, but was now gathering dust.

"They have not calendared the bill in the plenary," she told the INQUIRER.

Among the proposed amendments is the extension of the ban on the participation of major political parties and big business interests.

RA 7941 bars the participation of the five major political parties based on membership in the 10th Congress, but only in the first party-list elections in 1998.

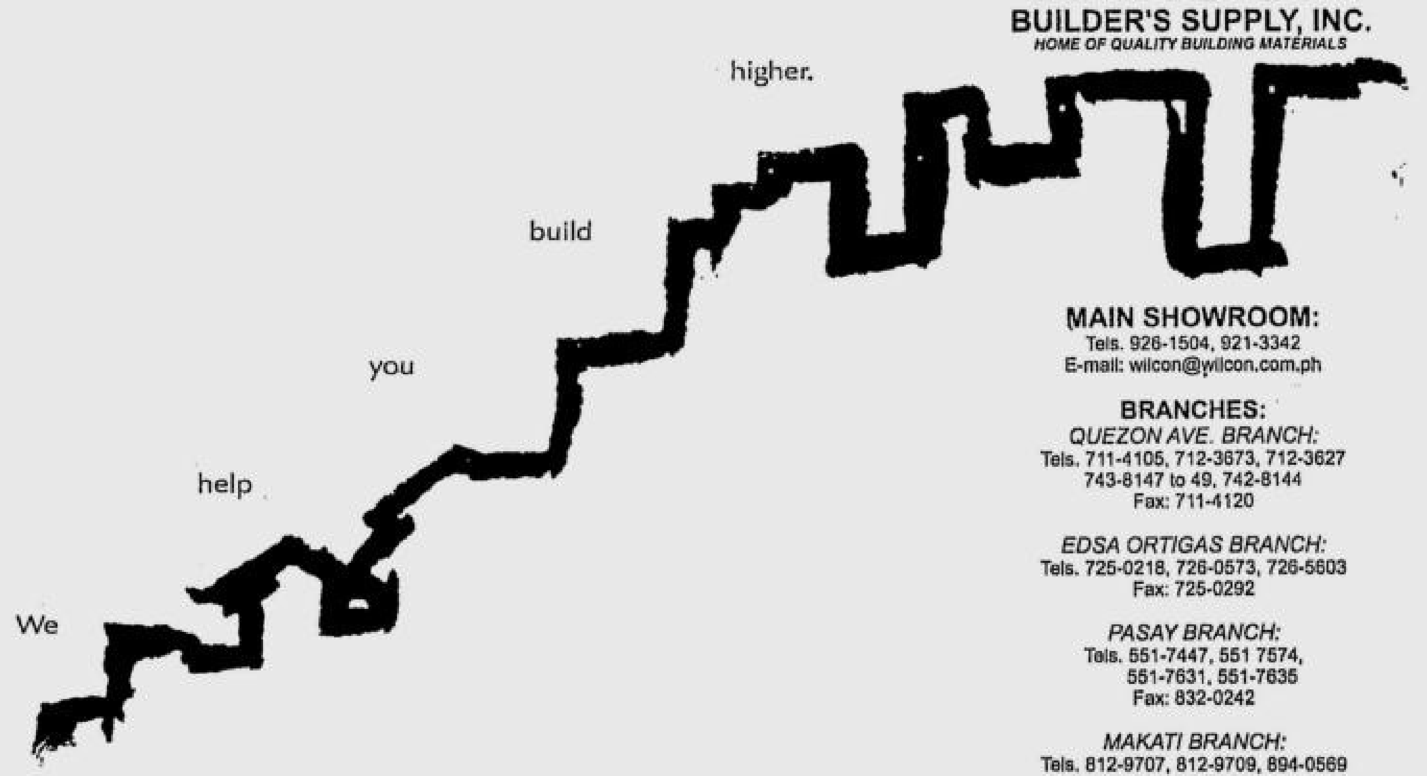
Those banned from the party-list polls then were the Lakas-NUCD, Liberal Party, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, National People's Coalition and Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

For the second party-list elections on May 14, the Comelec allowed 23 political parties to participate. The major ones are the Nacionalista Party, LP, PDP-Laban, Lakas, Nationalist People's Coalition, Partido ng Masang Pilipino, People's Reform Party, LDP and Aksyon Demokratiko.

Rosales also questioned the accreditation of certain professional and business groups, saying these were "not marginalized or underrepresented."

Scions of known Estrada supporters are also running in the party-list elections.

They are Narciso Santiago III (not Narciso Santiago Jr., as earlier reported; our apologies to the former interior undersecretary—ED.), son of reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago of the People's Reform Party; Rodolfo Albano III, son of Rodolfo Albano Jr., of the NPC; Susana Ople Osorio, daughter of Sen. Blas Ople, of the Citizens Drug Watch; and Rene Velarde, son of El Shaddai leader and Estrada spiritual adviser Bro. Mike Velarde, of Buhay Hayaang Yumabong. ***With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta***



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Schilling's mother may meet Gloria

By ARMAND NOCUM,
NORALYN MUSTAFA'
AND ALEXANDER YOUNG

THE MOTHER of US hostage Jeffrey Schilling may meet President Macapagal-Arroyo to appeal as one mother to another to negotiate with Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, but Palace and military officials stressed yesterday that the government would pursue its "policy of annihilation."

In a news briefing, presidential spokesperson Renato Corona assured Schilling's 61-year-old mother Carol that the government would do its "best to get her son safely back to her."

But, he added, "what exactly will be done will depend on the commander" of the ongoing military operation in Jolo, Sulu.

Although no meeting is scheduled between the President and Ms Schilling, who arrived from California Thursday, Corona said a courtesy call was possible, perhaps over the weekend.

Ms Macapagal is "also a mother. She's concerned about her children and she understands the feelings a mother like Ms Schilling has for her son," Corona said.

He emphasized, however, that "we don't negotiate with terrorists. I think the troops on the ground will know how to handle that."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was even more emphatic.

"The government of President Gloria Arroyo reiterates that we will not negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf . . . and we will continue the government's policy of annihilation," Agence France Presse quoted him as saying.

On Thursday, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said the group had suspended a plan to behead Schilling on Ms Macapagal's birthday to give the American's mother time to appeal to the President to "settle" the issue. He added that the Armed Forces should stop its offensive in Sulu.

But instead, the military intensified its operation yesterday, as some 1,500 special forces soldiers joined 2,000 infantrymen in the assault on the Abu Sayyaf, estimated to number around 1,200 members.

Col. Juvenal Narcise, spokesperson for the military operation, told reporters that Oplan Janus was a "two-pronged action to rescue (Schilling and Filipino captive Roland Ullah) and destroy" the bandits.

"The troops will find, fight and fix the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Safety of civilians

Southern Command spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando said the primary objective of the operation was "to rescue the two remaining kidnapped hostages . . . but we will emphasize the safety of civilians."

A number of villagers in two remote towns of Basilan have started to evacuate as government troops close in on suspected Abu Sayyaf hideouts.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva told reporters in Zamboanga City that there was "no reason" to pull out troops from Jolo.

"The Abu Sayyaf should release their captives unconditionally," he said.

Church leaders endorsed the government's effort to crush the Abu Sayyaf, who have attacked Christian targets in the past.

Agence France Presse reported that Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Orlando Quevedo said that if the government was "sincere in its fight to uproot these kinds of criminals, then it should go" ahead with the offensive.

But he also said it would be unjust for government troops to kill Abu Sayyaf members who were ready to surrender.

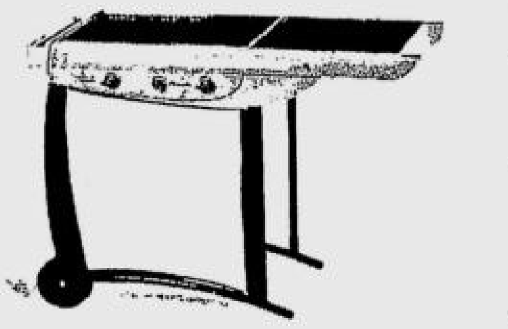
"Suppose an Abu Sayyaf member comes out and faces the soldiers with arms raised and giving up his gun. It would be unjust to kill him," Quevedo said.

Hide and seek

The military yesterday beefed up troops in Jolo with a battalion of Scout Rangers from the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro and more troops from Central Mindanao.

"We also deployed two Scout Ranger battalions, an infantry battalion from the Philippine Army and we still have the strength from the 103rd and 104th with the addition of one Marine battalion," Narcise said.

Thousands of soldiers combed Jolo but reported no fighting as Abu Sayyaf members apparently fled deeper into the jungle or hid among the local populace.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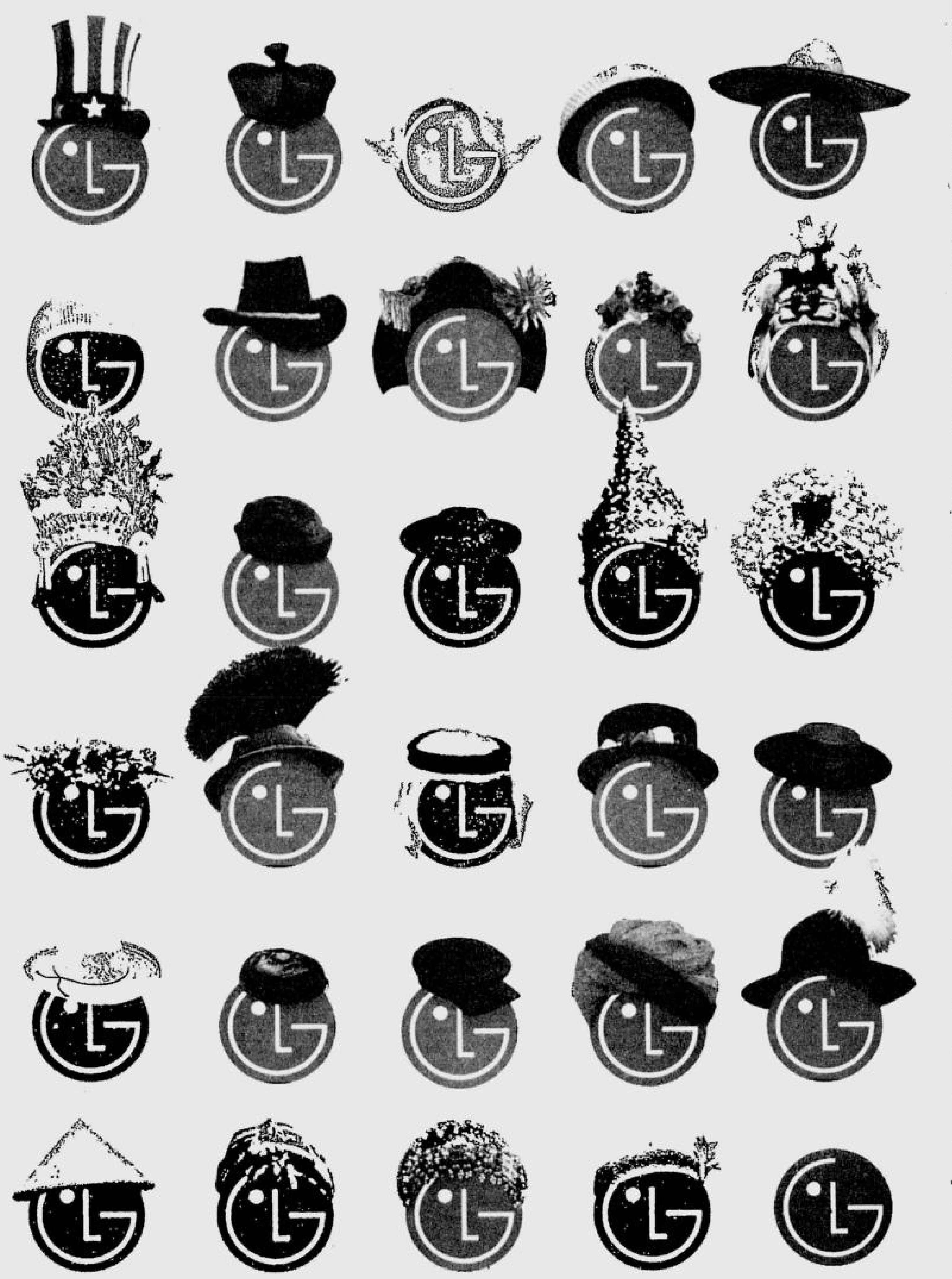

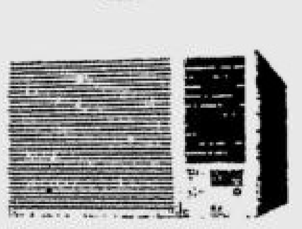

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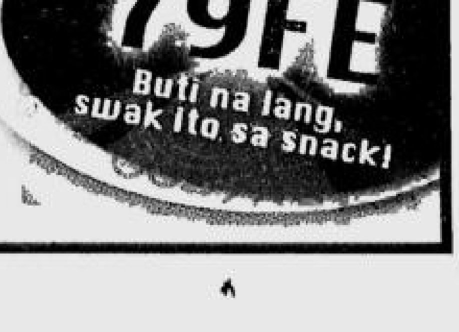
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OPINION

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Stretching the margin

EDITORIAL

THE MAY elections will also be the second party-list elections in the country. The Commission on Elections has accredited 178 party-list organizations to compete for 53 seats in the House of Representatives. The 53 seats comprise 20 percent of the total House members of the next Congress.

The number of accredited party-list organizations has grown to 178 from 122 in 1998, when the first party-list elections were held. In 1998, only 14 sectoral representatives were elected to the House because most of the accredited organizations failed to win at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for party-list candidates. What is noteworthy in these elections is not the growth of accredited party-list organizations but the abuse of the party-list system as a backdoor for the entry into Congress of people who don't represent marginalized and under-represented constituencies.

The party-list system was an innovation introduced in the 1987 Constitution to broaden the base of congressional representation by allowing the election of office-seekers outside the vehicle of the traditional and established political parties. It was intended to allow the infusion of ideas and proposals from groups which do not come from the mainstream of the multi-party system.

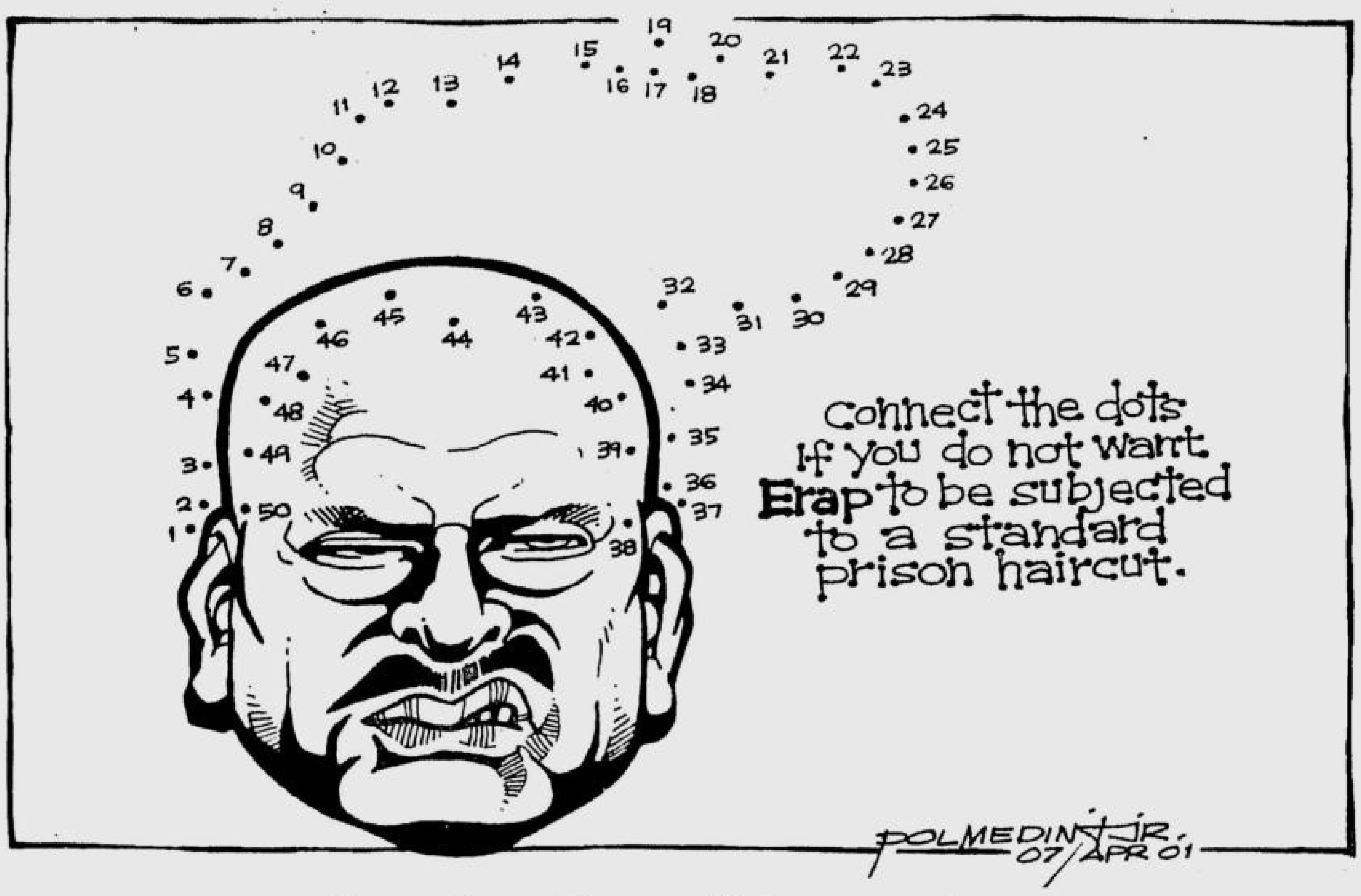
Three years after the first party-list elections, the purpose of the party-list system is being defeated. Two words provide the key to the party-list principle: representation for the "marginalized" and "under-represented" sectors of society. A careful examination of the 178 organizations accredited by the Comelec readily raises questions over whether a number of these groups represent marginalized or under-represented constituencies. For example, the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba), actor Richard Gomez's Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), the Citizens' Movement for Justice, Economy, Environment and Peace (JEEP), Kabataan ng Masang Pilipino headed by JV Ejercito, a satellite of Lakas-NUCD, and True Marcos Loyalists have been accredited. JEEP was a propaganda vehicle of deposed President Estrada. Some of the party-list organizations are political vehicles of the members of Estrada's Cabinet—among them former Flagship Projects Secretary Robert Aventajado, former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and former Legislative Liaison Officer Jimmy Policarpio. They are using the party-list system as a vehicle to sneak into Congress through the backdoor after they could not be accommodated as candidates by accredited regular parties.

The PMA and Creba are powerful and influential lobby groups. The first represents doctors, a largely wealthy group, and Creba represents the lobby of real estate developers. The PCCI is the largest association of trade chambers in the country. Can doctors, real estate developers and businessmen be classified as "marginalized" constituencies? There are already a number of doctors represented in Congress. Lawyers represent the largest professional group in Congress, elected as candidates of the regular parties. They already have their own vehicles for getting elected. If the PMA can be classified as a marginalized group, what can stop the Integrated Bar of the Philippines from seeking accreditation as a party-list organization?

In accrediting several groups as party-list groups, the Comelec has stretched the meaning of the law beyond its intentions. The indiscriminate accreditation has punched a big hole in the party-list system, allowing political discards, traditional politicians and powerful interest groups to sneak into Congress without broadening the social base of representation.

The law specifies that participation in the party-list elections should be limited to coalitions, minor political parties and sectoral groups. The sectoral groups are the elderly, fisherfolk, the handicapped, indigenous cultural communities, labor, overseas workers, peasant, professionals, urban poor, veterans, women and youth. These marginalized constituencies are being crowded out in the elections by powerful lobby groups that have money to spend. In this exercise, these marginal constituencies are being squeezed out.

With this accreditation, we are farther away from democratizing representation in Congress than we were four years ago.


Connect the dots if you do not want Erap to be subjected to a standard prison haircut.
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Banning the political ad ban

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

FORGIVE me for gloating a little but as a chronic dissenter, I find immense satisfaction in being vindicated every once in a while. As I said in my retirement speech at the Supreme Court in 1994, "I did not mind that in some cases I dissented alone. That did not necessarily mean that the majority was right, only that I was outnumbered."

There are many long-standing judicial doctrines that have been reversed and abandoned on the strength of the dissenting opinions. One example is Moncado v. People's Court, 80 Phil. 1, which held that illegally seized evidence was still admissible as long as it was not excluded by the Rules of Court. The dissenting opinions of Justices Perfecto, Bengzon, Briones and Paras have long since been adopted in the subsequent case of Stonehill v. Diokno, 20 SCRA 383. In fact, the exclusionary rule is now part of our Constitution.

An example nearer to my heart is National Press Club v. Commission, 207 SCRA 1, involving the prohibition of political advertising on television and over the radio. The majority sustained it as a police power measure intended to level the playing field between the rich candidates, who could afford such advertisements, and the poor candidates who could not. It said that candidates with "deep pockets" would have more access to the people through the media unlike their less favored rivals. The ban also sought to protect the hearing and viewing public from the annoyances of the intrusive political ads.

I was the principal dissenter in that case, with only Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez Jr. and Edgardo L. Paras on the same side. Our principal argument was that the ban violated freedom of expression and the right of the candidates to communicate their credentials and platforms to the electorate. I wrote in part:

"I realize only too well that the ideas that may be conveyed by the prohibited media advertisements will merely be exaggerations or distortions or plain poppycock and may intrude upon our patience. We may indeed be opening a Pandora's box. But these are unavoidable in the free society. As part of the larger picture, these impositions are only minor irritations that, placed in proper perspective, should not justify the withdrawal of the great and inalienable liberty that is the bedrock of this Republic."

As for the uneven playing field, I pointed out that barring the rich candidates from buying radio and television time would not prevent them from using their funds for distributing more election hand-outs, stringing up more streamers, pasting more posters, and organizing more meetings and parades. This would also be unfair to the poor candidates, who could not afford similar expensive campaigning. This inequality would blunt the main purpose of the political ad ban in seeking to protect the poor candidates from the superior logistics of their rivals.

But the most important consideration, I argued, was that all channels of communication should be kept open to ensure the widest dissemination of information bearing on the elections. This was especially necessary in view of the dismaying number of mediocrities who, by an incredible aberration of ego, were relying on their money, or their tinsel popularity or their private armies, to win the elections.

Experience shows that the ad ban has succeeded only in giving them candidates, particularly the show-biz people, an unfair advantage over their less prominent political rivals. The entertainers did not need radio and television advertising because they were already well known to the public. Their political opponents needed more exposure but could not effectively introduce themselves to the electorate because of the NPC decision.

The distressing result is all around us. We have been deluged with incompetence with the election of better-known but less qualified candidates, mostly from the entertainment field. Joseph Estrada led the pack, and now we see actors and athletes and television newscasters in diverse public elective positions from Malacañang to the barangay. I agree with Edu Manzano that show-biz people have no monopoly on incompetence. But going by the record of his ilk in general, I would rather vote for a candidate whose credentials are more substantial than being just a television or movie star.

And the influx of entertainers remains unabated if it has not in fact increased. Newscaster Noli de Castro is running for the Senate. Manzano, Vilma Santos, Joey Marquez, Lani Mercado, Rudy Fernandez, Philip Salvador, Nora Aunor, Imelda Papin, among many other popular entertainers, are gunning for local elective offices. As far as I know, none of them has outstanding or even only the usual academic qualifications. They could be among the "insects" referred to by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, but I would not call them so because I too have not studied at Harvard, even in a summer course.

The point is that, between these better-known persons and their less prominent political rivals, the choice of the *masa* should be obvious. Others may be more eligible, but the entertainers are more visible. The *bakya* crowd is proving to be the bane of our democracy. Their blind support of performers trained only to dance a jig or read from the idiot board is polluting the public service. Candidates who can serve the people better have little chance against these brazen maladroits.

I do not suggest that the lifting of the political ad ban will be a panacea for all our electoral ills, but it certainly will be a step in the right direction. With the safeguards that have been introduced to avoid the evils feared by the majority in the NPC Case, the new law will at least lessen the unfair advantage enjoyed by the entertainers over the other candidates who have more to offer in terms of public service but are relatively obscure.

I expect that many of us will be annoyed by the political commercials that will be bombarding us during the campaign period. We can turn off the set or mute the volume during the irritation—that's what the remote is for. At any rate, the minor vexations of these advertisements are a better alternative to voting blindly, and foolishly, for lack of information about the candidates and their qualifications. Electing an actor simply because he can shoot a toy gun will inevitably write for our imperiled democracy a tragic The End.

Filipinas in California

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SAN FRANCISCO—The western region of the United States might as well be called "Fil-America." It's where 70 percent of the Filipino-American population on the American continent lives. In turn, California is the heartland of the Filipino-American experience. This state has the largest concentration of Filipino-Americans in raw numbers: easily close to one million including TNTs. (Hawaii has the biggest Filipino concentration at 15 percent of the state population.)

Long Beach and the Bay Area lead the metropolitan areas in the state in terms of Filipino concentration densities. It's amazing. Everywhere you turn, you are bound to run into a smiling *kababayan* saying, "*Kumusta*?" They can spot you a mile away. This is nice especially in crowded or busy places like airports. Someone will always help you with your luggage. Filipinos always carry a lot of luggage because of the *padala*.

Am I making a statement by using "Filipinas" rather than "Filipinos" in the title? Perhaps, in a demographic way of speaking. Whereas earlier Filipino immigration to the United States, mainly to Hawaii and California, was predominantly male, recent decades have seen mostly female immigrants. More than two-thirds of immigrants arriving in the decade of the '90s, for instance, were women younger than 30 and children. The family unification emphasis in the immigration law explains why most immigrants coming from Asia are women and children.

But perhaps I also have a feminist bias because most of the Filipinos I know who are in important positions in the professions are women. To use a common expression, they have come a long way from the days of the plantation or the postwar period when women arrived as farm hands, war brides, or family members.

Today's Filipinas in the United States occupy leading positions in academe, research, corporate America, communications, business, finance and science. Many of them are self-employed, generating lots of business enterprises. Many are also trailblazers in fields they probably never thought of venturing into when they came to America.

Anyone making the rounds in San Francisco inevitably looks for Mona Lisa Yuchengco, founder and publisher of Filipinas Magazine, now on its 10th year. With that name, one would have thought she would be in the high-powered reaches of the corporate world: In fact, she worked as a banker for a while and would probably have been the first female president of a major bank in the Philippines had she stayed. But publishing—that didn't quite add up. Did she know what she was doing when the thought first came to her? You bet she did. And how!

As an expat in the early 1980s, she envisioned publishing a magazine "that will honor the country we came from and celebrate our presence as Filipinos," she wrote in the first issue of Filipinas in 1992. Since then it has been coming out regularly as an attractive, affordable, high-quality publication, easily one of the best ethnic magazines in America.

Its success, of course, can be attributed mainly to Mona Lisa's work ethic, intuition and entrepreneurial spirit. She is, after all, a Yuchengco and more. She's deceptively sweet and unprepossessing, but actually has a strong personality and a creative determination. She knows what she wants, gets it done efficiently, and on with the next task. Without being driven that is.

Frances Lagahit Brookey works in upcountry Sacramento as a research scientist with Morse Laboratories. Science has always been her passion since she graduated from the old Holy Ghost College in Manila with a pharmacy degree. She got a fellowship from the East-West Center in the mid-1960s for an MA in botany from the University of Hawaii. She went on to Arizona State to get her Ph.D. also in botany. As fate would have it, she opted to stay in the United States and decided to settle in Sacramento, where she has been working for the past 27 years.

Her expertise is in the area of pesticides, which requires a lot of knowledge in chemistry. She has to conduct tests and experiments, mostly requested by companies in the chemicals or pesticides business. Big companies like Dow Chemicals and Monsanto routinely refer new products to Morse Labs, and Frances with her fine scientific mind, is at the heart of the enterprise.

My niece, Jenie Abella, who lives in Hayward, has a unique job with Levi's, the jeans mastermaker. She had to learn on the job fast as her commerce degree from UST gave her some of the fundamentals in business but not the finer points in a specialized kind of job. If a strike were to occur at Levi's, she might be petitioned as an "essential worker." What she does is also some kind of scientific testing, but this time, it is with textiles. She usually travels with a chemist and designer to, say, Costa Rica or Guatemala, to review a range of textile choice offerings from various sources.

Jenie's job is to determine the "washability" of a particular type of garment, which will end up being produced by Levi's as jeans, jackets, shirts, etc. How she does it is a cross between science and practical skill. Just looking at and feeling the textile and doing some tests give her an idea of how it will "wash." (I suppose one gets better at it with experience.) She calls her job "textile technology."

These are only three Filipinas in the United States whose accomplishments in a foreign land, despite adversity and barriers of all sorts, make us proud. They are all superwomen in a way, very determined (but not grim) achievers. They represent an increasingly sophisticated immigrant profile, able to take on multifaceted and complex responsibilities in the modern workplace. But they remain Filipinas at heart, unspoiled by success, and unfazed by the challenges of a rapidly changing world of science and technology.

The author is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Need to keep up pressure on prosecution issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS this column was being written yesterday, the Sandiganbayan was set to raffle the criminal cases against deposed President Joseph Estrada among its five divisions. As Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena put it, the graft court will study the cases to determine if there is probable cause, and only then can an order for Estrada's arrest be issued. Garchitorena stressed that it will not be rushed into premature action, "no matter who is being charged."

This is the regular procedure that citizens can expect, but as lawyers point out, Estrada's lawyers can do a number of things to block his arrest (it is obvious that his camp mightily dreads arrest, hence the effort of opposition candidates to paint a scare scenario about "civil war" if this happens). One delaying tactic would be to file a motion for reconsideration with the Ombudsman and then petition the Sandiganbayan not to issue the arrest warrant on the ground of a pending motion before the Ombudsman. The latter could either throw out the motion, however, in which case the green light for arrest could be flashed already, or he could give the petition due course. If Estrada's lawyers are worth their fees, this is what they would do. Aniano Desierto continues to be the crucial factor here.

* * *

There is agitation from militant sectors to put Estrada behind bars now, but lawyers are quick to point out that the whole prosecution process can be tedious. *"Gagapang tayo dito,"* one government lawyer said. What's important, he added, is that there be *no ningas cogon* about Erap's prosecution. Is this a possibility, despite the fact that there is a lot of agitation to put Erap behind bars? Yes it is, if the availability of private lawyers now helping the government is any indication. During the Senate impeachment process they were all there, but now few of them are showing up as volunteers.

* * *

The problem, as one top lawyer put it, is that for many citizens, the primary goal was to remove Erap and now that this has been achieved, prosecuting him does not seem imperative. For this lawyer, what's important is to keep up the pressure on the Ombudsman, the Office of the Solicitor General and the Sandiganbayan to get the prosecution moving. The Catholic Church has led in stepping up the pressure, judging from the recent statement of Bishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, that Erap has to be jailed once all the legal obstacles are resolved. But other sectors have to join in the pressure.

Above all, those in a position to inform the public, such as the media, have to keep up the educational campaign on this major issue, if only to get the *masa's* thinking straightened on the need for punishment and retribution for crimes committed.

* * *

The administration has decided to grab the bull by the horn and be proactive as far as tourism and business investments are concerned. The recent target was our neighbor to the north, Japan. The Asean Japan Center, a Tokyo-based international organization funded mostly by Japan and eight Asean countries, and the Philippine Embassy, organized a mission to the Japanese capital and Osaka, the second largest Japanese city, late last month, to which were lured three top administration officials. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Philippine Export Zone Authority Director-General Lilia de Lima made presentations before the Kansai Economic Federation in Osaka and the powerful Keidanren or the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, enunciating the policy directions in tourism and investments of the new administration.

* * *

The Kansai seminar drew some 75 businessmen and other participants and the Keidanren seminar over 200 businessmen. The two events got a lot of media mileage for the Philippines. The groundwork for these Japan-based seminars was set, however, by a Japanese investment, tourism and press mission that visited the Philippines two weeks earlier. The mission took Japanese media and eight potential investors to Manila, Cebu and Palawan for a good look-see at facilities for investments in tourism and light manufacturing.

Afterwards I spoke to Tokyo-based tourism director Bong Bengzon, who led the mission to Manila together with commercial counselor Roman Baltazar. Bengzon emphasized that the mission members left Manila "very much impressed with the renewed vigor and confidence in the new administration." It seems we have reappeared in the investments radar screen again.

* * *

After the seminars, Gordon met with the highest-ranking leaders of Japan's travel trade, including Isao Matsuhashi, who chairs both the giant Japan Association of Travel Agents and the Japan Travel Bureau, the largest travel agency in that country, and Hideo Sawada, president of a very aggressive travel agency which pioneered in discount ticketing. Among the issues Gordon raised with the Japanese travel leaders were the possibility of increased flights between the two countries, including the operation of charter flights in the near future, and the Philippines' continuing negative image abroad. Hopefully All Nippon Airways might be persuaded to operate the chartered flights soon.

Gordon's courtship of Japanese tourists is a step in the right direction, for though its economy shows signs of more trouble ahead, Japan's proximity means it remains our No. 1 source of tourists. Our tourism remains in the doldrums, as evidenced by reports that a number of Davao hotels have closed down due to the slack in tourists. This is pitiful when one considers that other countries' problem is how to cope with the tremendous influx of tourists.

* * *

Retired UP sociology professor Vicente "Nonoy" Encarnacion Jr., acting secretary of the US Army Forces in the Philippines, North Luzon (USAFIP NL) Veterans and Heirs Foundation Inc., wrote to say that before entering UP in 1946, some of his generation fought for the liberation of our country against Japan. After the fall of Bataan, which is commemorated this Monday, these young people joined the guerrillas to help capture Besang Pass in 1945, "in a way redeeming Bataan and causing the surrender of Japanese General Yamashita in September of that year."

Encarnacion says the USAFIP NL survivors would like to honor the memory of some 1,400 comrades who gave up their lives to end the war. They believe that the best way to do this is to improve the national shrine and park at Darigayos, Luna, La Union, which was the site of their former general headquarters. According to Navy Commander Leonardo Nuval (ret.), who was a USAFIP sergeant during the war, the Darigayos site was declared a national shrine and park in 1995 by then President Ramos. The USAFIP NL Veterans and Heirs Foundation is appealing for help from the Macapagal administration, fellow veterans and heirs and civic-spirited citizens to refurbish this shrine. It can be reached in Quezon City at Tel. Nos. 929-0971 and 921-6323, and fax 926-1426.

China forced to play tough

NEWS ANALYSIS

Patrick Baert

BEIJING—Under pressure from the powerful military and chauvinistic public opinion, China's leaders are playing tough over the US spy plane but are also looking for a way out of the damaging row.

Beijing has demanded nothing less than a public apology from the United States for the collision between an E-P3 Aries spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet on Sunday.

The United States has categorically ruled out apologizing, but analysts said that without some face-saving formula China was unlikely to release the 24 crew of the plane which made an emergency landing on Hainan island in southern China.

"Face is very important: if there is no apology, the leadership will not be able to explain to the Chinese people why they have released the crew," said Zhang Yihong, a military expert at the Kanwa Information Centre in Canada.

A Western diplomat said the tough stance of China's leadership was also aimed at ensuring there was no repeat of the violent anti-US riots which occurred after Nato's May 1999 bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

He said the April-June period was always considered sensitive as it led up to the anniversary of the June 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement. With the need to keep a lid on sporadic protests by the Falungong movement, the government was keen not to bring people on to the streets.

Joseph Cheng, a China expert at the City University in Hong Kong, said civilian leaders were increasingly being drawn into conflict with the military as it put the emphasis on Western free market reforms for China's future.

Cheng said the military had become obsessed with the technological superiority of the US armed forces after their successful high-tech campaigns in the Gulf (1991) and in Kosovo (1999).

China's armed forces are engaged in a huge modernization drive aimed at acquiring the ability to retake Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a rebel province.

"President Jiang Zemin is under pressure by the PLA to be firm against the United States. They told the State Council (cabinet) that they do not agree with the government's policy on Taiwan," said Cheng.

In a sign of the immense distrust of the United States within the Chinese armed forces, the People's Liberation Army Daily Thursday carried a vitriolic anti-US editorial bristling with Cold War rhetoric. "As the self-proclaimed 'global policeman,' the United States not only sees no need to apologize but it criminalizes its victims while raising preposterous and absurd demands," said the paper.

The United States says the Chinese military has already sent experts aboard the stranded spy plane.

Zhang said he believed it was highly likely the military went aboard without even consulting the civilian leaders, and he said the top brass would be in no hurry to return the plane to the Americans.

He said the Chinese military was furious over the defection of a senior colonel to the United States in December last year, and that it was not beyond the bounds of reason to suspect the military of trying to bring down the US plane deliberately.

Cheng, of City University, said that with China's bid for the 2008 Olympics due to be decided in July and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (Apec) forum to take place in Shanghai in October with Bush's attendance, China did not want the incident to be blown out of proportion. "The Chinese leaders certainly do not want this incident to lead to a sharp deterioration of the bilateral relationship with the United States," he said.

In a sign the Chinese government feels in control of events, President Jiang Zemin left Wednesday on a scheduled tour of Latin America.

Wu Guoguang, a specialist on Sino-US relations at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said he believed Vice President Hu Jintao had been placed in charge of the affair following an expanded Politburo meeting Monday.

Following Jiang's departure, Hu is the most senior member of the powerful Central Military Commission and its only civilian member. ***AFP***

Two books

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

OOPS. They were back again under the bed—the books, I mean. About a year ago, I realized the situation had gotten out of hand with boxes of books and piles of magazines gathering dust under me. I managed to close my eyes and with almost maniacal determination gave many away to make room for other books on a crowded shelf.

Alas, that state of order didn't last long. First, I put new ones on my night table. But then they moved on top of the extra bed that began to resemble a vertical bookcase. Having used up the bed, some moved to the floor. Before I knew it, they were back under the bed again.

I would hardly call it spring-cleaning. It had more to do with being overcome by fits of sneezing from the accumulated dust. So the past week, I've been sorting out books and magazines again (sigh) into "Care Packages" to give away, including one whole shelf of National Geographic. Two of the new books are joining Dr. Benito Legarda's "After the Galleons," but not before I review them for your benefit in case you're on the lookout for some historical read.

Resident Intramuros Administration historian Victor Torres' "Pananaw: Viewing Points on Philippine History and Culture" is a collection of articles originally written for university journals, newspapers and magazines or class assignments for his MA and Ph.D. subjects. In the introduction, Dr. Flor Hornedo explains that this slim volume is not about the elite, unlike much of Philippine historiography which deals with presidents, statesmen and the like.

Torres instead writes about the ordinary everyday scenes or about small details involved in a historical event like the Tanza Convention of 1897. One essay is titled, "Culinary Terms in Pre-Hispanic Tagalog Cuisine" based on Fr. Pedro de San Buenaventura's 1613 "Vocabulario," the same method employed by Dr. William Henry Scott for his "Cracks in the Parchment Curtain." The origin of some items on our menus can be traced way back, like *bagoong* for instance and *kilawin,* which once referred not only to fish but also to meat and venison eaten raw after fermentation in vinegar and *sili*. The *boro* of the Kapampangans was also around before the Spaniards, but it included meat, not just fish.

Torres brings up an interesting point when he says that we don't know much about our heroes. "Knowing here means what was beyond their names: Where and when were they born? Their ancestry? What did they do before, during and after the Revolution? How did they become involved? What was their relationship with the more popular heroes like Aguinaldo, Bonifacio, Mabini, etc.? Did these individuals suffer punishments as exiles, or worse, the death penalty?"

Torres forgets to ask the next question: "Do we care?" Dr. Arsenio Manuel mentioned two decades ago that "most children or descendents did not even have a picture of their distinguished sires" and it says something about our sense of values.

Despite that, Torres tells the story of one Heriverto Zarcal, "a Filipino in Australia who would later become one of Aguinaldo's diplomats abroad." It is not known why Zarcal left for Australia to work as a jeweler in Queensland. A large pearl given as a gift to Queen Victoria by the people of Queensland on her jubilee was fashioned by Zarcal.

Other essays include: a short biography of Mother Jeronima de la Fuente, founder of the Poor Clares in the Philippines (whose portrait by Velasquez hangs in the Museo del Prado in Madrid); the *beatas* of Miyako, an order of nuns led by Lady Julia Naito; the travails of the Poor Clares during the liberation of Manila; and a curious article on the "tunnels" of Intramuros.

The second book is "La Revolucion Filipina 1896-1898" by diplomat Virgilio Reyes. It was originally in English and Tagalog, but he decided to translate it into Spanish for the benefit of *hispanoparlantes* so that they could gain some knowledge of the ideas and commentaries of Filipino authors and erudite foreigners whose works may not have been translated yet. Sources thus include Miguel Bernad, S.J., the Constantinos, Teodoro Agoncillo, O.D. Corpus, Horacio de la Costa, S.J., John Schumacher, S.J. and many other well-known historians.

Having been posted in Mexico and Chile, Reyes might have realized that despite the long contact with Latin America because of the Galleon Trade, most Latin Americans know little about the Philippines and vice versa. He is hoping that through this work a dialogue can be started regarding the true significance of the Revolution of 1896 and its influence on the People Power Movement.

The book does not, I believe, pretend to be the definitive word on the subject of the Revolution. It is more about the main lines of Philippine history and the broad picture. Consequently it deals with the Cavite Mutiny, Gomburza, Rizal and the rest of the propagandists in Spain as well as Bonifacio and Aguinaldo. The factors that led to change—religion, commerce, international politics, education and communication and contact with Europe—are also discussed.

Reyes endeavors to prove that the desire for change was not merely a sentiment of the *ilustrados* abroad but echoed by Del Pilar and Mabini and that the resentments against a foreign yoke emanated from the *masa* and the elite, both of whom looked up to Rizal. The failure of the Revolution is attributed to the failure of Filipinos, as demonstrated by Aguinaldo and Bonifacio, to effect a moral and spiritual change.

* * *

Comments are welcome at bambiharper@hotmail.com

One rough journey

YOUNGBLOOD

Maybelle Flores Miraflor

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I GRIPPED the phone tightly as I felt hot tears streaming down my cheeks. I tried very hard to keep my composure and keep my voice from cracking—but to no avail. I cut the conversation abruptly, saying goodbye to the person on the other line. Then I buried my face in my hands and cried uncontrollably, lips quivering and shoulders violently shaking.

Mama who just came home from work saw my sudden outburst and in an instant she was by my side asking what was wrong. Her questions fell on deaf ears. I just shrugged my shoulders and said nothing. I did not feel like talking. I did not want to explain what happened. All I wanted was to be left alone.

With leaden feet, I went to my room and closed the door and cried. The conversation I just had kept echoing in my head. Four in our batch had flunked the course. She wasn't sure who they were, but my intuition told me I was one of them.

Helplessly I threw myself on the bed, closed my eyes and tried to convince myself that everything was just a nightmare and everything would be all right when I woke up the next morning. But my tears just kept falling, endlessly it seemed. And the pain was very real. The faint flicker of hope lasted for just a moment and was quickly gone.

In a blur, I saw my friends, my classmates, my batchmates—everyone I had grown to love over the years. I recalled the things we had been through and the times we had shared, both good and bad. Then I knew I would miss them all: the people I would have to say goodbye to and the things we used to do. I cried for them all until my eyes hurt.

The next day I went to school, dreading the idea of facing reality. It was judgment day, the day when I would know for sure whether my intuition was right.

I got my class card from another student, took a surreptitious look at it and then went to the office of our organization where my classmates were waiting. The happy faces of those who made it greeted me. I tried to appear cool and told them the bad news: I had flunked the course. I tried to be strong and held back my tears. I told them I expected it all along.

One by one my three other classmates who failed arrived, and in a flash everybody knew who weren't going to march on graduation day.

The news spread like fire. But inside the office, the silence was deafening. Nobody said anything. No one dared to talk, each of us sizing up the others. The look on our classmates' faces where sympathy, disbelief and anger combined were too much for us to bear. Three among us finally broke down, one after the other. And everyone in the room soon joined in. They were crying over our failures and they were crying out of happiness at their own success. Some, unable to stand the tension, went out of the room but still with tears in their eyes. Most of them couldn't believe it was the four of us who had flunked. They refuse to accept it, and some protested that a great injustice had been done to us.

I just kept mum, miserably accepting the reality. My mind was telling me to argue and plead with my professor. But in my heart I knew what happened. I knew what went wrong. I had no one to blame but myself. I had been too complacent. I didn't take the course seriously. When I tried harder, the situation was already beyond repair.

Outside the school, people who had heard the bad news went out of their way to console us and offer whatever little help they could give. I welcomed their efforts so that I could save face and keep my scholarship. Deep down inside me though, I felt more miserable, and I pitied myself even more every time people would come up to me and try to give me comfort. I had to force myself to put up a brave front and hide the pain and the embarrassment I felt. I pretended that I was okay although I was not. I acted as if I was happy when in fact I was bleeding inside.

As the days passed, somehow the four of us managed to survive—but not unscathed. The countdown to graduation day began and the thought that the rest of our batchmates were leaving us behind and that we would be in school for another year was torment for me. I cried every night and at any time of day when I found myself alone. Then when the much-awaited day came, I felt bitter but also genuinely happy for everyone who made it.

It seems like it was only yesterday when all this happened. At the time, I thought my tears would never stop and the pain would never go away. I never thought I would be able to smile again.

Until now, the memory still brings me to tears once in a while, but it is no longer for the same reasons that I had before. I miss my friends. I miss them terribly and I miss the good times we shared. But as I look back now, I no longer feel the pain. I have come to realize what happened to us was not a failure but a challenge, and it was a challenge the four of us took up and overcame. It was an experience from which we learned much. For me, it was also a year-long opportunity to meet other people, get to know my friends better and accept added responsibilities in school. I can even say without qualification that it was a blessing in disguise.

I have never felt more loved than the night after I was told the bad news and the days that followed, when everybody showed their concern for me. I can still remember Mama frantically banging on the door, probably afraid that I might try to hurt myself. I remember opening the door to see Daddy staring at me, concern written all over his face and then telling me it was all right. I remember my brother not being a jerk that night. I remember him trying so hard to cheer me up and making me see the positive side of being left behind, especially keeping my allowance! And then there was my 4-year-old little sister, looking at me, wiping the tears off my face and kissing the pain away. I remember very clearly how they all tried to make me smile. I could not appreciate their efforts then, but I do now.

Last March 29, it was our turn to march on our graduation. All four of us went on stage to accept our diplomas with our heads held high. We overstayed, true, but that experience made us better persons. We had had a long and rough journey, but it was a journey worth taking.

Maybelle Flores Miraflor, 22, graduated with a bachelor's degree in accountancy from the Bicol University. She was the editor in chief of The Auditor, the official publication of the accountancy department, in which this article was first published.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Bad indications

"What kind of senators will they make and what kind of laws will they enact when they are the first ones to violate the law?"

—Senatorial candidate Homobono Adaza on his complaints against candidates' illegal campaign posters

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LETTERS INQUIRER

Don't count the youth out

THE FAILURE of Congress to work out a special registration for first time voters has not diminished the youth's determination to make their presence felt in the national and local elections. We are resolved to continue this fight until we get what many concede is only fair to us.

The youth will continue to participate in the electoral process with or without the special registration. We drove Erap and his cohorts from Malacañang. We will make sure that they will never return.

We will work for a new kind of politics based on principles and the empowerment of the people. We will support candidates who are willing to answer the demands of the youth as well as the people. We will ask our friends, parents and fellow youth to make the coming elections a historic one by voting for those who seek a politics of change and rejecting rotten traditional politics.

Although an end to electoral fraud and violence in the country seems impossible at this time, we are prepared to secure the votes and volunteer our services to ensure that there will be an honest and free elections. The youth's vitality and readiness to take part in the struggle of the people for change were proven again at Edsa and Mendiola. Don't count us out in the elections.—**RAYMOND PALATINO, chair, UP Student Council**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readers advocate @inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Paying a debt of gratitude

THANK you for publishing my photo on Page 1 in the April 3 issue of your newspaper together with other kidnap-for-ransom victims during the press conference which was called to show our support for former PNP Director General Panfilo "Ping" Lacson. If I only knew that you would come out with me looking like that, I would've gone to the beauty parlor first. That expression of mine reminds me of the time when someone "kidnapped" my dear Manila Times. *Na-Puwersa tuloy akong ibenta ang* Times.

Thank you also for emphasizing the portion of my statement where I said that I was at the press conference on a personal note. Like the other kidnap-for-ransom victims, we were there to tell the public that were it not for Ping, we would not even be around to tell our story.

On the other hand, may I take exception to the photo caption which said, in part: "...15 former kidnap-for-ransom victims and their families led by Robina Gokongwei-Pe..." Actually, the group was led by Ruiz Co, who was kidnapped himself in 1997 and rescued five days after by Ping and his team. At the press conference, Co read his own statement.

At this point, allow me to make my own personal statement:

1. I attended the press conference in my own personal capacity.

2. I attended the press conference to pay a debt of gratitude to my rescuer, Ping Lacson.

3. And this is the reason why I'm voting 12-1.—**ROBINA GOKONGWEI-PE**

Marcos' hidden billions do exist

SOME TIME in 1999, I was at the office of Francisco Chavez together with Msgr. Nico Bautista and perennial woman-activist leader Tess Baltazar. We were there to drum up moral and financial support for Chavez's public and pro-bono efforts to pursue the investigation of Marcos' $13-billion hidden wealth in foreign banks as pointed out by private sleuth Reiner Jacobi.

Other than the former solicitor general, there had been few public personalities and government officials who could be trusted or sufficiently convinced about the authenticity of such reports. Either they had been compromised by the Marcos heirs and lawyers with promises of getting part of that gigantic loot such as some previous Presidential Commission on Good Government officials or they were just naively skeptical and thus compromised as well, such as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. These people have been so irritatingly skeptical about even the most credible or verifiable revelations of Jacobi and Chavez.

My more sanguine point of view about Marcos' huge hidden wealth abroad and still undiscovered by Philippine authorities, arose from the fact that Steve and Presy Psinakis and I spent many months in 1978 tracking down all over the Philippines and the United States the original, knowledgeable or first-hand sources of information. Even our own friends and underground associates, including former Representatives Raul Daza and Bonnie Gillego and Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez, who helped Steve and me photo copy and bring to my car a roomful of copies of documents, pictures and transcripts of secretly taped information from our almost year-long research and investigation, couldn't immediately believe that such great amounts of stolen wealth was possible.

A Japanese friend of mine succeeded in smuggling several complete sets of our documents in several boxes partially filled with kobe beef. I immediately gave one set to Sen. Jovito Salonga. After several days of going through the documents, he repeatedly told me: "It's too good to be true, Ed. It's fabulously too good to be true..."

Thus the Marcoses, their multinational lawyers, heirs and PCGG accomplices have successfully imitated Satan. For the devil's most effective offensive and defensive strategy against their victims and enemies alike is to pretend and convince as many of them that he does not exist at all, or at best he is merely a legendary figure for old folks and young children's cheap Halloween thrills.

Soon after I had that meeting some time in 1999 with Chavez, I went to see Steve and Presy Psinakis to enlist their support in making public our corroborating evidence. They readily consented. With the help of Steve's secretary, we compiled several copies of Steve's materials published in San Francisco 20 years ago. It was his personal narrative of our investigation of the Marcos loot story.

In 1999 I gave several sets to a couple of local media bigwigs and another one to now Finance Secretary Bert Romulo, with the assurance from Steve, Presy and me that the entire roomful of original files from which Steve's highly condensed account was drawn would be made available if they were interested in helping bring these to the attention of our people. I was also able to convince Dr. Eduardo Escobar Jr., who was a direct participant together with many Marcos henchmen, including Gen. Fabian Ver, in the original systematic and secret digging operations for hidden treasures, to corroborate our own account on those activities.

Some time last year, Baltazar and I wrote an open letter addressed to then Senate blue ribbon committee chair Pimentel, chiding him for his obvious foot-dragging in the investigation of the Chavez-Jacobi revelations. True enough, the blue ribbon investigation turned out to be completely a flop and it was overtaken by Erap Estrada's impeachment trial.

Now we have even more convincing and dramatic proof of the authenticity of the existence of Marcos' hidden loot, based on the latest accounts in the INQUIRER, of Irene Marcos Araneta's attempts to relaunder some $13 billion.

What are our government officials waiting for? Thank God Haydee Yorac has been nominated (knock on wood) to head the PCGG. Without Yorac there and soon, Chavez might just climb the nearest wall in crazed frustration together with many of us.—**EDUARDO B. OLAGUER, Aurora Milestone Bldg., 1045 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City**

Gringo's memory lapses

REELECTIONIST Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan has been suffering from a memory lapse, the latest of which is his often-repeated claim of being "the first independent candidate to win a Senate seat."

This isn't true. The first independent candidate to make it to the Senate was the illustrious Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, who ran under the banner of the Nationalist Citizens' Party (NCP) when we were still under a two-party system. He was later followed by Magnolia Antonino, widow of Mindanao's Gaudencio Antonino.

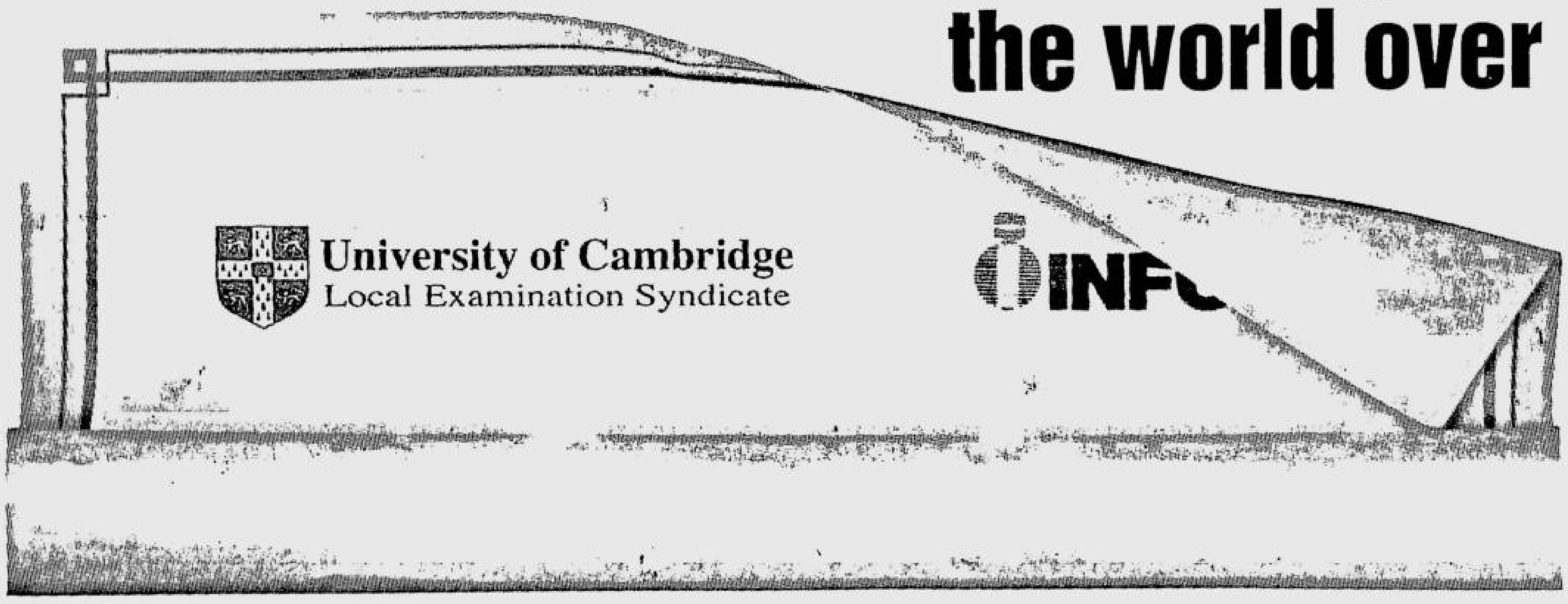
Gringo's initial attack of forgetfulness occurred during the first days of Edsa Uno when the communists almost succeeded in putting up a coalition government with the weak Aquino regime. Without the unselfish efforts of patriots behind the "Save Our Soldiers" movement, Honasan's political career would not have prospered.

There is still time for Honasan to "snap out of it" and regain the friendship of his comrades. As one proverb states: "Gratitude is the least of virtues, but ingratitude is the worst of vices."—**ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st eBank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Fit to be shot

REELECTIONIST Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has lifted a page from preacher Wilde Almeda's failed promise to be executed at the Luneta, if Jose de Venecia failed to win the presidential elections in 1998. Santiago "offered to be shot at the Rizal Park if the People Power Coalition scores a 13-0 sweep of the May 14 senatorial elections."

Considering how she tried to suppress the Jose Velarde envelope, why don't they just shoot her now? Period.—**JUAN L. MERCADO, Press Foundation of Asia, Manila**



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TAN YAN KEE Foundation, Inc.

15 Years of Service to the Nation

Mr. Tan Yan Kee
1912-1994

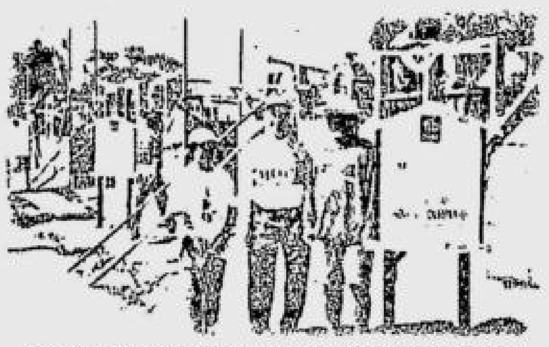
Paying homage to their father and foremost mentor, Dr. Lucio C. Tan and his siblings established the Tan Yan Kee Foundation in 1986 to serve the Filipino nation. Its primary goal: to assist and support programs geared towards the enhancement of the quality of life and education of Filipinos.

Dr. Lucio C. Tan

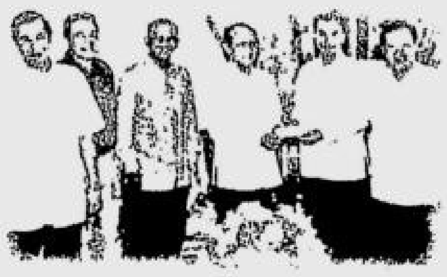
In its 15-year existence, the Foundation has donated nearly P1-billion to various causes and charity projects. This includes the construction of school buildings, hospitals, churches and houses for the homeless. The Foundation also extends calamity assistance and renders substantial support to livelihood programs, anti-crime and anti-drug crusades, environmental protection projects, sports development and medical research programs.

Tan Yan Kee Chairman and President Lucio C. Tan hands over a P10-million donation to the Philippine National Police Foundation.

Relief mission in lahar-stricken and other calamity areas through the HOPE caravan.



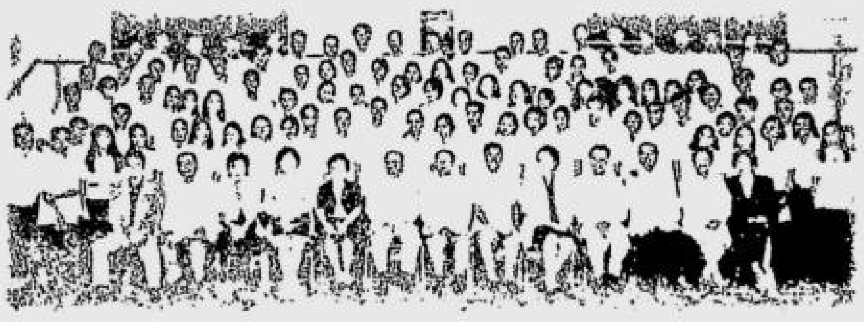
Tan Yan Kee Chairman and President Lucio C. Tan supports Habitat for Humanity Project of former US President Jimmy Carter.



Tan Yan Kee Chairman Lucio C. Tan makes a P1-million donation for the construction of a Spiritual Formation Center in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur.

Similarly, the Tan Yan Kee Foundation earmarks significant resources for teacher training, scholarship grants and other education programs.

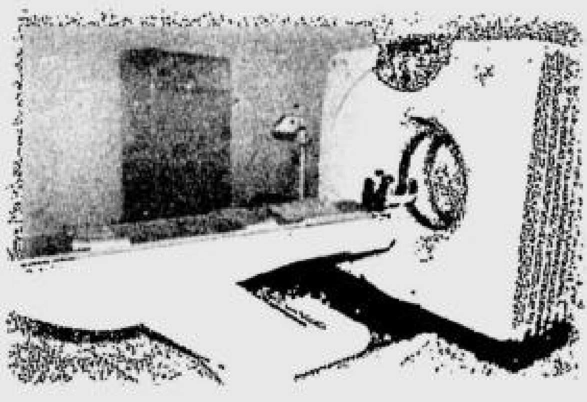
The Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE), in cooperation with Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., supports teacher training programs



Third Batch of UE-Tan Yan Kee Scholars

Tan Yan Kee works for the future of Filipino children through its program in support of education

One of the Foundation's most recent and valuable contribution is a CT Scan facility for soldiers, veterans and their dependents at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center.



GE CT Scan donated to AFP Medical Center (formerly V. Luna)

In cooperation with Allied Banking Corporation, Rotary Club of Makati and Brother's Brother Foundation (USA), the Tan Yan Kee Foundation helps in distributing millions of books to various schools and libraries nationwide.

In culture and arts, the Foundation assists Filipino artists and scholars by extending support to Filipino authors and cultural shows. The Foundation also plans to assist in the collection, documentation, preservation and promotion of Filipino cultural heritage.

In sports, the Foundation helps by developing Filipino athletes for international competitions through training sponsorships. It also supports various sports activities such as golf tournaments and basketball development programs.

Through these diverse projects, the Tan Yan Kee Foundation hopes to reach out to less fortunate Filipinos, emulating the value of generosity instilled by a humble and great man -- the late Tan Yan Kee.

The TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION, INC. has the following partner institutions:

- University of the East (UE)
- UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center
- UE Foundation for Research and Advanced Studies, Inc.
- Asia Brewery Inc. Medical Specialty Scholarship Program (ABIMSSP)
- Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE)

TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION Anniversary Week Activities

March 31 4pm	**Annual Membership Meeting** *P5-million Donation to Tan Yan Kee Professional Chair Ateneo Law School*
April 2 12 nn	**P7-million Donation to Davao Central Educational Association** *For construction of school building and auditorium*
April 4 10am	**P1-million Donation to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center's Dermatology Department** *-for repair and maintenance of medical equipment*
April 5 10 am	**Book Donation to Mater Carmeli School, Novaliches, Quezon City** *through the "Books Across the Sea Project".*
April 6 8am - onwards	**Medical/ Dental Mission in Parang, Marikina City** *in cooperation with Fortune Tobacco Corp., UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, UE College of Dentistry, Tanduay, Asia Brewery, Inc. and City Government of Marikina*
11 am	**Re-affirmation of support for "Books Across the Sea Project"** *with Rotary Club of Makati and 10 Rotary Districts nationwide.*

Dr. Lucio C. Tan

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Bush offers regrets for collision

WASHINGTON—The United States and China Thursday intensified negotiations for the release of an American spy plane's crew, and US officials said they were encouraged by the talks.

President George W. Bush, in a conciliatory gesture, expressed regret over the midair collision that triggered the tense standoff.

"The Chinese have got to act," Bush said, "I hope they do so quickly."

China called the 24-person crew lawbreakers and said the servicemen and women would remain in China for questioning.

Both countries held firm to their opposing positions in public—China demanding an apology, Bush refusing to offer one—but sent encouraging signals in a diplomatic flurry. The administration's tone brightened as weary Bush advisers embraced the first notes of progress.

In Santiago, Chile, visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin again said the United States should apologize for last weekend's collision. "I have visited many countries, and I see that when people have an accident, the two groups involved, the two parties, always say excuse me," Jiang said.

Several high-ranking government officials said the situation improved practically overnight, though they still had no assurances the crew of 21 men and three women would be released.

While most Americans slept, Bush's team worked to open new channels of communications with Beijing. The talks continued as dawn made its way around the globe: Chinese Ambassador Yang Jiechi met with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in Washington; US Ambassador Joseph Prueher met twice with Assistant Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong in China.

WANG Ming, father of Chinese fighter pilot Wang Wei who went missing in the waters of Hainan province after a collision with a US plane, weeps as he speaks beside his wife Wang Yuequin in Hangzhou April 5. REUTERS

"We're having intensive discussions with the Chinese," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

Frustrated for days by the lack of talks, American diplomats were suddenly negotiating with Chinese counterparts over US demands for the crew's release. "We're talking about what we want to talk about, which is release," said a senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The US Navy EP-3E surveillance plane collided with a Chinese jet, forcing the American crew into an emergency landing on Hainan island in the South China Sea. The crew are being questioned and detained. The plane and its sensitive equipment are in China's hands.

The Chinese pilot, presumed dead, was blamed for the crash by Bush's allies in Congress. They called the pilot a "hotdog" and accused him of buzzing the lumbering spy plane under standing orders by Beijing.

Bush was more conciliatory in a statement calculated to show sympathy without bowing to China's demands for an apology. "I regret that a Chinese pilot is missing, and I regret one of their airplanes is lost, and our prayers go out to the pilot, his family," Bush told the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

In using the word "regret," Bush followed the language used by Secretary of State Colin Powell and other US officials Wednesday in hopes of softening China's stance.

China welcomed the American expressions but stuck with its demand for an apology, displaying the same mixture of encouragement and toughness Bush sought to show.

"The regret expressed by the US side is a step in the right direction to solving this question," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi before Bush spoke. The next step, Sun said, is for the United States to "admit its mistakes and make a formal apology."

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer reiterated that no apology was forthcoming.

In another display of firmness, the spokesperson suggested that Bush's support for free trade relations with China would depend on the outcome of the standoff. Bush himself told the newspaper editors that he backs China's wishes to joint the World Trade Organization, but he added: "I'm hopeful that the current situation ends quickly."

China kept the pressure on Bush by taking a tougher line against the servicemen. "The US crew violated international law," Sun said.

"They have caused this air collision incident and they also entered illegally into China's airspace," he said. "It is fully natural for competent authorities in China to question them about this incident."

A senior US official said the Chinese had questioned the American crew. The White House, perhaps hoping to avoid inflaming the Chinese, did not lodge a public protest.

China, too, seemed to want to rein in public anger over the incident. The government quashed a small protest outside the US Embassy.

Rear Adm. Craig Quigley told reporters at the Pentagon that it was not possible to know how much sensitive information or equipment might have been lost to the Chinese until US officials have had a chance to question the crew in detail.

On Capitol Hill, fans and foes of China's new normal trade status said Congress shouldn't rush to punish the nation for holding the spy plane and its crew.

It was clear, though, there was limited patience for China's actions. "We're not without remedies, some of them harsh," said Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Alabama.

"Every hour, every day that they keep these people against their will, basically, they're hostages."

At the White House, Bush and his advisers kept their remarks to a minimum. Behind the scenes, Armitage emerged as the main go-between with the Chinese in Washington.

Bush, who is usually asleep by 10 p.m., met well past his bedtime Wednesday night with Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

In his session with editors, Bush promised to use "all diplomatic channels" to get the crew members released, though advisers said he did not think the time was right to personally call Chinese leaders. "The message to the Chinese is we should not let this incident destabilize relations," Bush said. *AP*

China keeps protesters in check, for now

BEIJING—The lone protester outside the US Embassy had scrawled just a few angry lines on his poster when Chinese police led him away.

"Give us back our Chinese pilot," the young man wrote. "Blood debts must be repaid in blood."

In the confrontation with Washington over a US spy plane, Beijing is taking care for now to manage public anger. Four people tried to put up protest posters outside the US Embassy on Thursday—and police led them quietly away.

It's a far cry from the support the government gave to tens of thousands of protesters who besieged the US mission after Nato bombed the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia in 1999. Then, authorities bused protesters in and police set out signs showing them which way to march. They were allowed to throw rocks and bottles of ink at its walls.

This time, China is keeping public anger confined to the virtual worlds of the Internet and state-controlled media. State TV has for two days broadcast footage of angry citizens condemning the United States. Some read from cue cards. All hew closely to the government line: the United States is at fault for the collision Sunday between the US Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter.

The Chinese pilot is missing, feared dead. China insists that Washington apologize and is holding the 24 crew members of the US plane that made an emergency landing.

Without a nod of approval from the government, only a few Chinese appear ready to take their anger to the streets.

Without fanfare, the lone protester knelt down opposite the US Embassy's iron gates, rolled out a sheet of paper, pinned down its corners with stones and started to scrawl.

"We don't want American money, we want dignity," he wrote.

By the time two police officers walked over, the poster was nearly covered. They led him to a waiting van and drove away. A few hours later the man came back. He wouldn't give his name but said he was a worker and that the police asked him a few questions before letting him go.

"If China is pushed into a corner, it will fight back," he told a reporter.

Police also detained three other men who put up posters on utility poles. Police took down the posters, which showed a boot walking on China's red flag and the words: "The Chinese people cannot be trampled on."

Apparently to forestall any protest, police had tightened security near the Embassy by midweek and guards questioned passers-by.

A foreign ministry spokesperson, Sun Yuxi, said Thursday that China would protect the safety of foreign embassies. He noted that Chinese could only protest with official permission. *AP*

US, in rare move, assails Israel settlements

WASHINGTON—The United States fired a rare double-barreled shot of criticism at Israel Thursday, blasting plans for new settlements in the Palestinian territories and protesting an incident in which Israeli soldiers opened fire on a convoy of Palestinian officials.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher called the shooting, which occurred as the Palestinians were returning to Gaza after US-facilitated security talks with Israeli officials, "a very serious incident."

On hearing of it, Secretary of State Colin Powell,immediately telephoned both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to urge restraint, Boucher told reporters.

"We wanted to ensure that escalation would not ensue," Boucher told reporters, adding that Washington understood Sharon and Arafat had also spoken directly to each other after the incident.

Boucher then read the riot act to Israel, spelling out in terse and blunt detail what the United States expected from the Jewish state, particularly after Washington had worked hard to arrange the security talks, the first since Sharon took office last month.

"Israel does have a responsibility to provide the safety and security of Palestinian officials traveling to and from security meetings," he said.

"Prior to this meeting, we had been assured by Israeli officials that this would be the case," Boucher added, using language diplomats reserve for expressing extreme frustration.

He said that details of the incident were still unclear although a senior state department official said the shooting had occurred within earshot of US Embassy employees who had shuttled the Palestinians to the meeting from Gaza.

"Our guys had just dropped them off and were heading back when the shooting broke out," the official said.

Sharon told Powell the shooting had not been deliberate and that he would be conducting an investigation, Boucher said.

Israel has admitted firing on the convoy late Wednesday just after it entered the Gaza Strip through the Erez crossing with Israel, following a meeting of security chiefs aimed at quelling months of deadly unrest.

However, Israeli officials say it was a response to fire from one of the escorting vehicles on an Army post.

The Palestinians are pressing the United States to take "harsh" action against Israel for the incident, which they term a premeditated ambush.

Washington had helped arrange the security meeting, which was the first since Sharon took office a month ago and follows a fierce upsurge in violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Despite the incident, Boucher said Washington would continue to assist with the security talks.

"What we see as the useful role that we can play by our engagement is to facilitate their direct bilateral discussions," he said.

Meanwhile, Boucher also slammed Israel's plans for the new settlements as "provocative" and running directly opposite to moves Washington believes are helpful to peace and stability in the region.

"Continuing settlement activity by Israel does risk further inflaming an already volatile situation in the region," he said. "This is provocative and we have consistently encouraged both sides to refrain from provocative acts."

Earlier, the Israeli housing ministry published tenders for 708 homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank, drawing an immediate outcry from Palestinians and left-wing Israelis.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said the tenders were part of an Israeli "policy of aggression."

The settlements, which are illegal under international law, have been at the flashpoint of the six-month Palestinian intifada or uprising that has killed almost 470 people, most of them Palestinians. *AFP*

Driver convicted of deaths of 58 Chinese migrants

LONDON—A Dutch driver who watched movies and ate dinner while 58 Chinese immigrants sweltered and suffocated in the back of his tomato truck was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 14 years in prison yesterday.

The case cast a horrifying light on a murky underworld of gangs that profit from immigrants' hopes for new lives in the West.

Justice Alan Moses laid much of the blame for the deaths that shocked Britain and the world squarely on the shoulders of driver Perry Wacker, 32.

"You took no care for the people in the trailer in that confined space," Moses told Wacker, of Rotterdam, as he sentenced him at Maidstone Crown Court, hours after the jury returned its verdict.

"When you closed the vent you deprived them of the air they needed to stay alive. You did not once check on them."

Wacker, also convicted of four counts of conspiracy, swallowed hard but otherwise showed no reaction.

Ying Guo, 29, of South Woodford, England, a Chinese interpreter who served as the victims' British contact, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to smuggle immigrants, and sentenced to six years in prison.

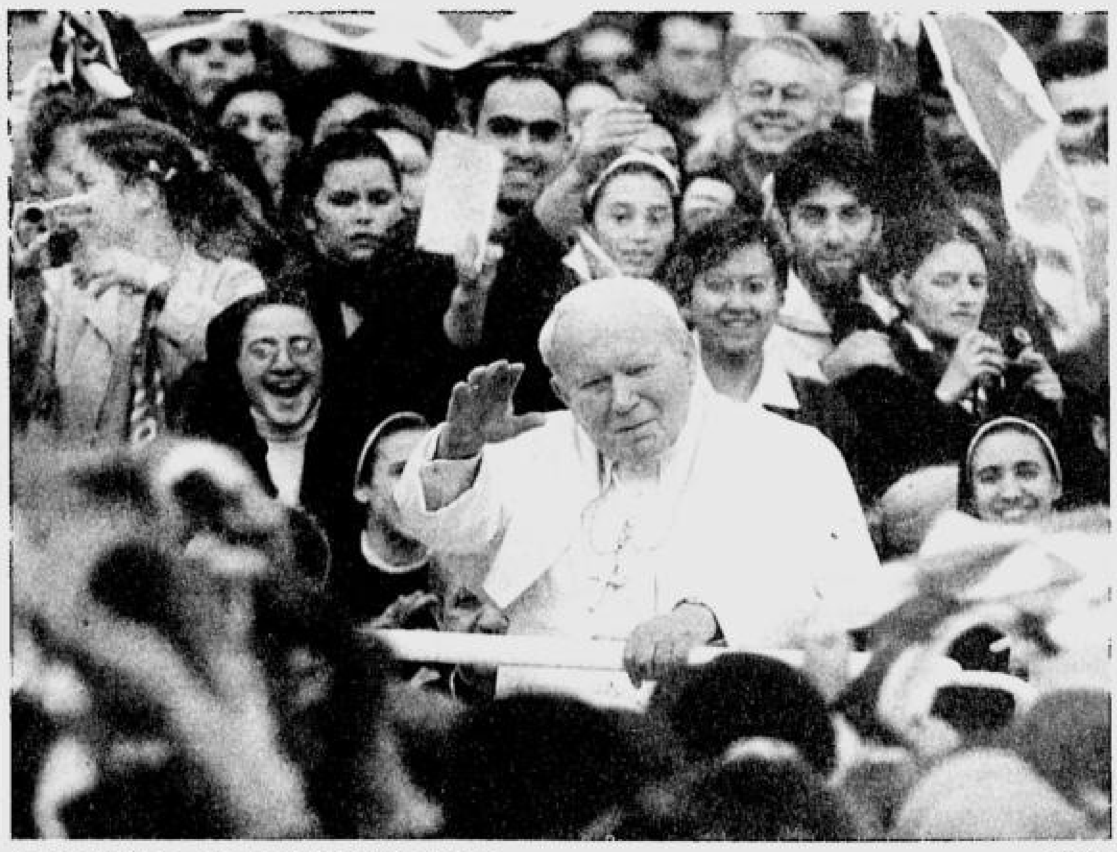
Prosecutors said 27 of the dead were carrying her telephone number.

"They looked to you for guidance, you failed them," the judge said.

Wacker and Guo had pleaded innocent.

The dead—54 men and four women—had paid tens of thousands of dollars each to smuggling gangs known as "snakeheads" for the chance to begin a new life in the West. Only two migrants survived.

Claude Moraes, former director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said hundreds risk their lives each week trying to enter Europe. *AP*



PREPARING FOR PALM SUNDAY REUTERS

Pope John Paul II arrives at the St. Peter's Square in Rome, April 5 to prepare for Palm Sunday rites at the Vatican.

US senator files bill seeking ban on human cloning

WASHINGTON—A US senator Thursday introduced a bill that would ban human cloning and urged members the House of Representatives to follow suit.

"I believe now is the time to enact an immediate ban on such efforts before this research opens doors we will never be able to close," said Republican Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado.

Campbell said there was "broad international agreement" on banning human cloning.

The proposal would ban all attempts to clone a human being regardless of whether this effort is financed with government or private funds.

Violators would face fines of up to $10 million as well as jail sentences of up to 10 years.

In 1997, the administration of former president Bill Clinton declared a five-year moratorium on human cloning financed by government funds, but at the moment, nothing prevents a privately financed experiment.

Previous attempts to pass legislation banning human cloning have been unsuccessful.

The White House said last month US President George W. Bush would support legislation to ban human cloning on moral grounds. *AFP*

Mori tells Cabinet he'll step down

TOKYO—Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori yesterday told his Cabinet that he would step down, signaling the end of one of Japan's most unpopular governments since the end of World War II.

Mori, under fire for months over verbal gaffes and missteps, had been long expected to quit. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is planning to hold a leadership election later this month to choose a successor.

But Friday's announcement did not solve Japan's mounting problems. A long-awaited recovery from the lengthy economic downturn has stalled, and banks are still crippled by a decade-long debt crisis.

Mori hinted at the troubles Japan faces in his statement, his first public announcement of an intention to step down.

"I made up my mind to resign because I think it is necessary to tackle mounting issues both at home and abroad under a new administration," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda quoted Mori as telling the Cabinet.

The apparent top-runner to replace Mori is former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who served from 1996 to 1998. Hashimoto heads the LDP's largest faction and reportedly has the support of two other factions.

Hashimoto yesterday suggested that he was flattered by the attention, but stopped short of declaring his candidacy.

"As I've said before, it's an honor for a politician," Hashimoto told reporters.

There is general agreement in Japan that Mori leaves the country hungering for leadership, and his missteps have severely damaged the LDP, which has ruled nearly uninterrupted since 1955.

"Japan needs economic reforms no matter who the prime minister is," said Masumi Ishikawa, a political expert at Obirin University in Tokyo. "The year 2001 will be the year that made it clear that the LDP is finally falling apart."

The Cabinet yesterday announced an emergency economic package that set a two-year deadline for banks to dispose of their riskiest bad loans. The debt load by one estimate is $102 billion. *AP*

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TRUTH #1

We did not violate the import ban.

Monterey did not import meat from Europe after the ban was declared by the Department of Agriculture, under Memorandum 19 Series of 2000 "which temporarily bans the importation of live cattle, sheep and goats, their meat and meat products...from European countries."

TRUTH #2

The shipment to Cebu was ordered on October 19, 2000, prior to the issuance of the ban.

The ban was officially declared on November 29, 2000.

TRUTH #3

We rejected the shipment but it was already in transit to Cebu.

Despite knowing that the meat was certified mad cow-free by the Department of Agriculture and Food of Ireland, we still cancelled the shipment in transit in compliance with the ban and applied for re-exportation. In fact, the shipment was already re-exported to Ireland on March 9, 2001.

TRUTH #4

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TRUTH #5

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

2 suspected rebels arrested

CABANATUAN CITY—Police arrested two men suspected of involvement in the armed communist group Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. Chief Insp. Elsa Miranda, Cabiao police director, identified those arrested as Hermino Basilio, 47, of Bataan, and Benjamin Culala, the owner of a house in Barangay Sta. Isabel in Cabiao where Basilio was staying. Police reports identified Basilio as an RHB team leader while Culala was said to be a supporter of the RHB. Confiscated from them were five handguns, bullets, anti-government documents and communication equipment. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Wardens probed for escape

CABANATUAN CITY—A judge here has recommended the filing of charges against two jail wardens who allegedly allowed a detainee to leave jail without any court order. Judge Feliciano Buenaventura of the special court for heinous crimes here recommended the filing of charges against Chief Insp. Apolonio de la Cruz and Tito Murillo, jail wardens of San Jose and Cabanatuan cities. According to Buenaventura, detainee Mark Esteban de la Cruz was seen staying in the house of warden De la Cruz, reportedly his relative. Detainee De la Cruz, along with one Ismael Daniel, was charged with the killing of a certain Jeffrey Jacinto on April 16. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

GMA seeks help for street kids

NORZAGARAY, Bulacan—Alarmed by the increasing number of street children in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo rallied non-government organizations and other sectors to focus their attention on this "social bomb that is ready to explode anytime." She made the call during the groundbreaking ceremony for ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163 Children's Village here Thursday. The multimillion-peso village will house families of abused and battered children in a 2.5-hectare site in Barangay Partida here. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 34° Lo 25°	**Baguio** HI 26° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** HI 33° Lo 23°
Laoag HI 33° Lo 23°	**Clark Zone** HI 34° Lo 25°	**Tagaytay** HI 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 33° Lo 26°	**Bacolod** HI 34° Lo 25°	**Roxas** HI 33° Lo 26°
Cebu HI 33° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Gen. Santos** HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga HI 34° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 34° Lo 24°	**Davao** HI 33° Lo 25°

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SIGHTSEERS JOAN BONDOC

The long wait starts for these children in Pagadian City, not just for the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo, but also for the fulfillment of the new administration's promises of economic recovery and good governance.

Gloria ignores advice, visits 'jueteng' base

LUBAO, Pampanga—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday stuck to her birthday tradition of visiting Lubao, squeezing it in her activity-packed homecoming schedule in Pampanga against the advice of local Lakas-NUCD leaders.

The leaders said her visit to Lubao, hometown of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, might revive speculations of her links with suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

The President made a surprise visit at past 11 a.m., after she appeared in scheduled appointments in Bacolor and Guagua town, some 5 km from Lubao.

While streamers greeted her homecoming, residents did not line up the streets or gathered at Lubao's San Agustin Church or at the replica of the hut where her father grew up in Barangay San Nicolas.

First Spouse Jose Miguel Arroyo confirmed that the President's stopover at Lubao was "not part of the official visit."

Ms Macapagal, in a pale yellow suit, walked at the middle aisle of the church, built by Augustinian friars in 1575, then knelt at the front bench nearest to the altar to pray for five minutes.

Dan Capitulo, president of the parish pastoral council, rushed at the back of the altar to put on the lights when he saw the President move toward the altar.

As she walked toward the altar, Dennis Pineda, 27, a godson in a wedding and the eldest son of the suspected jueteng financier, sidled to her.

The President gave him a brief but firm handshake but never talked to Dennis, a mayoral candidate in Lubao.

Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, the wife of the alleged gambling lord and Dennis' mother, was not around to greet the President.

Dennis said his mother was suffering from a bout of asthma for the last two days.

Bong Pineda, seen by reporters last week in a nightspot in Angeles City, was also not present.

The President's visit to Lubao took only 10 minutes. About 100 people rushed to the church to greet her. Her husband said she came to the town to assure her town mates that she belonged there.

"This is her way of telling them that she remembers them," he told reporters in Filipino. "Every year, this is her devotion," he added, appealing to people not to attribute malice in the President's brief stopover in Lubao.

Capitulo said Lubao residents waited for the President at 7:30 a.m., when a Mass was supposed to be celebrated for her 54th birthday.

The President and her entourage left hastily for a homecoming reunion organized by local officials at the Bren Guiao Convention Center in the City of San Fernando.

In the city earlier that morning, former President Corazon Aquino led the President's well-wishers.

"I hope she will be successful in her presidency. I congratulate her for what she has already done in the short term that she's already there," said Aquino, whom the President called the "inspiration of People Power" and her "idol." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

4 killed, 8 hurt in 3-vehicle collision

BALAGTAS, Bulacan—Four people were killed while eight others were hurt in a three-vehicle collision along the Barangay Burol section of the North Luzon Expressway here early morning Friday.

The accident came more than two weeks after 11 people were killed in an accident in another section of the expressway in nearby Bocaue town.

Police identified the fatalities in Friday's mishap as Alfredo Galang of Angeles City and Angelino Pascua of Parañaque City. Two women fatalities remain unidentified at press time.

The accident happened at 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Reports said Galang was driving a northbound passenger jeep loaded with more than 10 passengers and tubs of fish bought in Metro Manila when a southbound Isuzu Elf truck driven by Pascua suddenly crossed a grassy island of the expressway and swerved to the opposite lane.

The truck first hit a Mazda van driven by Nelson Mangulat of Biñan, Laguna and later collided head on with the oncoming passenger jeep bound for Angeles City.

Galang and Pascua, reports said, died instantly due to the impact of the collision.

Two women occupants of the passenger jeepney died while being taken to the Bulacan provincial hospital in Malolos town. Police said the victims had no identification documents with them.

One of the fatalities was taken to the Zaldy Funeral Homes in Barangay Matungao in Bulacan town.

Eight other occupants of the jeep were taken to the Bulacan provincial hospital for treatment but they could not yet provide information on the identities of the two fatalities, a source from the hospital said.

Investigation conducted by the Philippine National Construction Co. and the Balagtas police showed that Pascua's truck had no mechanical problem, prompting investigators to suspect that Pascua had lost control of his truck after he had fallen asleep.

Those injured were identified as Ronaldo Gamut, Nelson Granabusin, Maritess Granabusin, Leonora Angeles, Alvin Tamayo, Remedios Cardinio and two unidentified victims, all of Angeles City and occupants of the passenger jeepney. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Miriam vows to make life 'hell' for Reyes

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has vowed to make life "hell" for former Armed Forces chief and now Defense secretary Angelo Reyes should she be reelected.

She told a press conference here recently that the Senate blue ribbon committee should investigate Reyes for treason for abandoning deposed President Joseph Estrada in "his hour of need."

Santiago, who was confident of bagging the chairmanship of the blue ribbon committee if reelected, said Reyes demonstrated an "act of treason" when he personally met with Estrada on Jan. 18 to inform the former President of his plan to defect to the opposition assembled at the Edsa Shrine.

"President Estrada was the commander-in-chief. As chief of staff, General Reyes should have not broken the chain of command," she said.

"If I were the President at that time, he (Reyes) would not be able to get out of the room. He would be dead instantly," said the feisty senator, who hails from this city.

Estrada and his family were forced to leave Malacañang on Jan. 20 after the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police as well as a number of his Cabinet officials withdrew their support from his administration.

Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was then sworn in as the country's 14th President. The Supreme Court recently upheld the legality of her presidency and junked an Estrada appeal.

Car plows into rally; woman killed

By Vicente Labro and Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A 70-year-old woman died and 17 other people were injured when a car rammed into a local political rally of the Lakas-NUCD about 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Basey, Samar, some 27 kilo-meters northeast of this city.

The police identified the fatality as Rosa Ecaldre, 70, a resident of Barangay Anglit where the incident happened.

Among those seriously injured were Ritchelle Abiertas, 21; Jovic Adona, 30; Syrille Joy Abiertas, 1; Irene Adona, 27; Salvador Abiertas, 48; and Leizel Pacalan, 8.

They suffered broken ribs and bones and were immediately brought to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center where they were operated on.

The 12 other victims suffered slight injuries and were treated at the Basey District Hospital.

SPO3 William Ronquillo of the Basey police station told the INQUIRER that Rolando Cabradilla, the driver of a blue Toyota Land Cruiser with plate no. HAP-325, escaped shortly after the accident.

The vehicle had three passengers, including the car's owner, a certain Joe Garcia, who is a contractor and resident of Tacloban City.

Ronquillo said the vehicle's passengers had to be rescued by local officials from a lynching mob.

Initial police investigation showed that the Land Cruiser came from Salcedo town, Eastern Samar and was bound for Tacloban City. When it approached Barangay Anglit, which is some seven kilometers away from the Basey town proper, it reportedly tried to overtake a passenger jeep.

Cabradilla, who was allegedly drunk, saw a parked motorcycle on the left lane of the highway, and then swerved the car to the roadside, said Ronquillo.

But the vehicle fell some three meters and drove into the political rally that was already going on, the police officer said.

Among the speakers at the political rally in Barangay Anglit were unopposed reelectionist Basey Mayor Wilfredo Estorninos and his fellow municipal candidates under the Lakas-NUCD.

Reelectionist Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura of the second district was supposed to be at the rally. He, however, had not arrived at the scene when the accident happened.

It was learned that the political rally had to be called off as the candidates and the crowd joined hands in bringing the victims to the hospital.

DAR says Danding land reform scheme never took off

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The "corporative scheme" implemented on the 4,361-hectare agricultural land of business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco in Negros Occidental "was never set up, never signed and never materialized," Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said yesterday.

He said the scheme, which was hailed by deposed President Joseph Estrada as a model of agrarian reform, is being reviewed by his office.

"At this point it's (the corporate scheme) a mere proposal," he said. "If it is beneficial to the farmers, we will go for it. If the farmers will lose, we will not go for it."

Braganza said the corporative scheme is not the Macapagal administration's model set-up for land reform.

"That is Erap's concept of land reform. This is a new administration," he said.

During rites in Pontevedra town on Oct. 2, 1998, then President Estrada hailed his political ally, Cojuangco, as the "godfather of land reform" when the business tycoon announced that he was giving away P1.5 billion worth of his property in Central Negros to farmers.

The corporative scheme would make the farmer-beneficiaries and Cojuangco partners in a joint venture.

There would be no transfer of land but the farmers could use the land as equity, representing 30 percent shares in the corporative, a term coined from corporation and cooperative.

Cojuangco and other investors would get a 70 percent share in the corporative for putting up capital.

The scheme would ensure that high value crops planted on the Cojuangco property would remain productive. The farmers would not only get dividends but also salaries as workers in the corporative.

Covered by the scheme were 11 Cojuangco farms in La Carlota City, Bago City, La Castellana, Himamaylan and Isabela.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer Alexis Arsenal said a "motherhood" title was supposed to be given to farmers who joined the scheme.

But this was not done, he said. The DAR was about to finalize the agreement when there was a change of administration.

In the meantime, he added, the property in question remains owned by the Cojuangcos.

Braganza said he found nothing wrong with farmers using the land as collateral for business ventures.

But he said "any scheme with no land transfer is not agrarian reform."

More new cities in Negros

BACOLOD CITY—Residents of three towns in Negros Occidental and a town in Negros Oriental voted yes for cityhood in separate plebiscites held on Saturday.

The conversion to cities of the towns of Escalante, Himamaylan and Sipalay brings to 13 the number of cities in Negros Occidental. Tanjay, on the other hand, becomes the fifth city of Negros Oriental.

Rodolfo Sarroza, director for Western Visayas of the Commission on Elections, said the registration of candidates for the two additional seats for councilors in the new cities were held on Tuesday and yesterday.

Under the law, each municipality is entitled to have eight councilors, 10 for component cities and from 12 to 16 for highly urbanized cities.

Ralph Lantion, Comelec Commissioner for Western Visayas, said the conversion of the four towns into cities would greatly improve their economic condition.

He said a town that used to receive P50 million in Internal Revenue Allotment would now be getting about P200 million as a city.

Escalante, 92.2 kilometers north of Bacolod, was proclaimed a city by the Comelec at 1 a.m. Sunday. Himamaylan was declared a city at 9 a.m. Saturday while Sipalay, 170.4 km south of Bacolod, was declared a city at 9 p.m. Saturday.

In Negros Oriental, Tanjay became the fifth city in Negros Oriental and the third in the second district. The other cities are Dumaguete, the capital of Negros Oriental which is under the second district; Bais, also in the second district; Canlaon, in the first district; and Bayawan in the third district.

The four Negros towns were among the 16 municipalities all over the country that were made cities just before the 12th Congress adjourned.

After the bill was approved by Congress to convert these 16 towns into cities, a new law was also passed by Congress that made it harder for these towns to become cities.

The old law required towns to have a minimum income of P20 million for at least three consecutive years, a land area of at least 100 square kilometers and a population of at least 150,000, has been changed.

The new law now requires towns to earn at least P100 million outside of the Internal Revenue Allotment before they could qualify to become a city. *Carla Gomez and Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cityhood vote set April 25

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Residents of Isabela, Basilan will decide on their town's cityhood in a plebiscite on April 25.

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin and Isabela Mayor Luis Biel II have urged the people to fully support the town's cityhood bid when they met the town's 45 barangay chairs last week.

"The Isabeleños will surely benefit from this. It will also fast-track the development of Isabela which is considered the show window of the province to the outside world," Biel said.

Salapuddin said if it becomes a city, the town's Internal Revenue Allotment will increase from 130 million to 177 million.

"Isabela is worthy of becoming a city because of its historical importance. Isabela was once a booming municipality during the Spanish and American occupation, hence it has every right to develop and transform itself into a component city in the new millennium," Salapuddin said. *Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Having a blast from the past through Cebu's fun museums

BY GERARD PAREJA
Cebu City

SURPRISINGLY, Cebu museums are not so much scholarly as they are fun. They are not as inclined in enshrining the past as they are in celebrating them in today's context. As cornucopias of information, they certainly are mixed bags. Perhaps a little confusing but never quite boring.

Take the dimly lit **University of San Carlos Museum**. Located in the university's main campus on P. del Rosario Street, it can turn a taxidermist into a stamp collector and vice versa. There are enough rarities in both its stuffed animal collection (which includes extinct species) and its collection of rubber-stamped attachments to letters (sent by priests to each other) to excite the other camp into pursuing a new passion. Curated by Marilou Samson, the four-gallery museum of the country's oldest school also has its share of religious artifacts.

A trait that it shares with the **St. Theresa's College (STC) Museum** which just last year was burglarized. This exclusive girl's school's museum also boasts of the folkloric research and books of its curator, Sister Delia Coronel. The good nun also has gathered enough anthropological pieces that it wouldn't be surprising to find a saint's bust next to a headhunter's axe.

The **Basilica del Sto. Niño Museum** might not be wanting in terms of statuettes of saints but what makes it quaint is its toy collection. The country's oldest church has accommodated in its Pilgrim Center's basement the toy gifts (mostly toy trucks and toy cars) given by the faithful to the Sto. Niño or the Holy Child. (Fr. Ambrosio Galindez, OSA, curates the museum.)

Toy pianos, antique pianos, necktie pianos and other not-so-functional piano-inspired knick-knacks fill the **Sala Miniature Piano Museum** at 415 Gorordo Avenue. The museum, which showcases the miniature piano collection of world re-known pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria, is in the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation Inc. (SPSFI) Headquarters that also houses the Batig Piano Studio. The Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines also holds practices in the same compound.

Peace museum

Ingrid's brother, Juan, has a Peace Museum filled with World War II artifacts in his **Discovery Hills** at Babag, a mountain barangay of the city. **Discovery Hills**, curated by the young Hera Mamiya Cruz, is an outdoor activity center frequented by trekkers and mountain climbers. It features, among other things, an Asean Pavilion, a Boy Scout camping area and a butterfly sanctuary.

Perhaps making sure that he won't run out of butterfly wings, the world's leading lepido mosaic artist, the late Julian Jumalon, built a butterfly sanctuary in his residential compound in Basak, thus creating the **Julian Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary and Art Gallery**. The place, curated by Jumalon's son Osman, has the country's oldest butterfly collection. Also in the collection are the butterfly species that the late artist discovered. The gallery has a lepido mosaic of the former first lady Imelda Marcos alongside Cebu's mythical beasts, the Sigbin (warlock's kangaroo) and the Mantaga (giant octopus). Students on excursion frequent this place where science sees art eye to eye and myth cohabits with history. (Entrance is free.)

GERARD PAREJA
GETTING tattooed in George Escalona's museum on Colon Street.

History, it seems, is given a funky twist by the history-oriented museums of the city.

The **University of Southern Philippines Museum** houses an extensive collection of Rizaliana, said to be the largest outside of Metro Manila. Rizal's love letters to Josephine Bracken as well as his sketches of the last woman in his life were turned over to the museum by no less than the hero's sister herself, Trinidad. Aside from the Rizaliana, the museum also has the last existing flag of the Katipunan Lucio Pulmones curates the museum.

Writings, both in the walls and in the visual aids, abound in the **Cebu Normal University Museum**, which houses pre-war American Public School System paraphernalia. And since the school was a Japanese garrison during World War II, some of the prisoners' graffiti are still preserved on some of the walls of its rooms. Romula Savellon curates the museum.

Old homes turned museums

Style is what is preserved in the **Sergio Osmeña Memorabilia and Cap Art Gallery**. The late president's residence boasts of a 1951 Cadillac with power windows, that, as curator Mary Abad claims, is still in "very good condition." It also has the first house elevator built in Cebu which was built when Don Sergio was already in a wheelchair.

Another old house turned museum is the **Casa Gorordo Museum**. Located in the historic Parian District of the city, the residence of Cebu's first bishop has been preserved by the Ramon Aboitez Foundation Inc.

First on-line

The **Southwestern University Museum**, the first museum in the country to go on-line (even beating the National Museum) can lay claim to the title most interactive in the city. It attracts visitors from outside the country through its website www.swumuseum.org. Housing the most extensive archeological collection in the city, it argues that Cebu ad always been a port center with it its own culture, offering as evidence foreign pre-Hispanic coins, jewelry, ceramics and Argao-excavated boat coffins. Though it takes pride in its rare iron-age ceramics, its most exotic item could be the golden death masks used in the burial of members of the tribal royalty. The Guitar Foundation of the Philippines holds its monthly practice here.

The port culture argument is echoed by the **National Museum Region 7 Branch** that is built around artifacts recovered from the famous Spanish galleon San Diego.

The **Cebu Archdiocesan Museum** (at the Cebu Cathedral) and the **Cebu City Rizal Library and Museum** (on Osmeña Boulevard) are currently undergoing renovation.

Visual treats

No reason to sulk, though. As smaller non-VAMG galleries can easily fill-in in terms of visual treats. Among them is George Escalona's **Tattoo Museum** on old Colon Street that displays original indigenous tattoo instruments.

Escalona himself tattoos, using modern equipment, for interested patrons. A champion of the alebata, he gives big discounts to those who would like a native alphabet permanently etched on their skin.

Tito Cuevas' Modern Art Gallery on Maria Christina Street offers the artist's various artistic adventures ranging from his abstract paintings to print experiments.

As a bonus one can drink a cup of coffee with the artist while talking about art and art restoration.

Yup, art lover, there's more to summer in Cebu than beaches and Santacruzan.

In need of better defense

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

TEOFILO Viña, former chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF)-Visayas, blames politics for his misfortunes.

Viña, however, isn't running in May, and would need a better defense.

What Viña can't deny is the fact that three of the policemen charged with PR specialist Bubby Dacer's murder are his "favored boys." Insiders told the Cebu media that SPO4 Marino Soberano, SPO3 Mauro Torres and SPO2 Jose Escalante "came to Cebu with Viña and reported only to him."

A Philippine Airlines (PAL) passenger manifest, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), showed that Viña flew to Manila on Nov. 23, 2000 and returned to Cebu in the evening of Nov. 24, the day Dacer disappeared.

There's only one way for Viña to clear his name. As suggested by former police chief Panfilo Lacson, he should cooperate with the NBI investigation.

This early, however, Lacson has begun to distance himself from his former Visayas chief. In an interview with a local radio station, Lacson said it wasn't true that he was "really not that close to Viña."

So why did he appoint Viña to head the Visayas office of the elite task force? Lacson claimed Viña's appointment was made upon the say-so of "a *kababayan* from Cavite" whom he didn't bother to name. That claim is difficult to believe, given the image of professionalism the former police chief painted of himself.

* * *

RENEWING FRIENDSHIP. Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal met Joseph Estrada for the second time this year last Sunday, and it seemed that their friendship hadn't changed.

On Jan. 19, 2000 when the country was teetering on the brink of chaos, the Cardinal flew to Malacañang to advise Estrada to step down to avoid a showdown with protesters.

Last April 1, citizen (and future city jail inmate) Estrada visited Vidal in Cebu City "to renew their friendship." But the presence of Estrada's coterie of Pwersa ng Masa (PnM) senatorial candidates showed that Estrada wanted more.

Reports later said Vidal didn't endorse Estrada's candidates because none was requested. The Pwersa slate, however, did score PR points with Vidal's hospitality and declaration of non-partisanship.

"They know I'm a non-partisan," the prelate said. "I have been in Cebu for 20 years and I'm known for that."

Vidal's stand again conflicts with the Church initiative to dump the remaining vestiges of the Estrada administration and hand a 13-0 victory to the People Power Coalition (PPC). But what else is new?

* * *

DEAD EVEN. In Iloilo City earlier this week to free a Powerpuff Girl-wannabe for the rest of the summer season, I got a glimpse of interesting developments on the home front—closely fought matchups that won't be decided until election day and mismatches that render academic the May 14 exercise.

The three-way city mayoralty battle between Jerry Treñas (Lakas), Vice Mayor Guillermo de la Llana (LDP-Drilon wing) and former congressman Rafael Lopez-Vito (LP) is dead even.

Veteran scribe Limuel Celebria said De la Llana gained the early lead but lost it because of funding problems. (How real is the LDP-Drilon wing?)

Businessman Treñas has been riding strong on the combined machinery of Rep. Raul Gonzalez and three-term mayor Mansueto Malabor while Lopez-Vito appears to be gaining ground from the outside in what's shaping up to be one of the tightest battles in Iloilo's political history.

Local parties party out

BY CARLA GOMEZ *(In Bacolod City)*
MALOU APALISOK AND
NAGIEL BAÑACIA *(In Cebu City)*

UNPRECEDENTED in the history of local politics in Cebu and Negros Occidental, local parties now dominate the electoral contests in these two leading provinces in the Visayas.

Criss-crossing political interests and disappointment with national parties are just two of the reasons why local politicians decided to be on their own.

The emergence of local parties is happening not just in the Visayas but all over the country, according to Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela, because local politicians could no longer rely on national parties as vehicles for change in the provinces.

"Local parties are expressions of disillusionment in national political parties," Coscolluela said.

But a closer look at how these parties were formed showed that the main reason is political survival. The leaders of these local parties are not neophytes and they apparently understood clearly that in politics, everything is all about keeping your dominance in your own turf.

In Negros Occidental, two provincial parties were formed for the first time in its political history.

The first to emerge was the United Negros Alliance (UNA) that has business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco for an adviser and most of the incumbent local officials for candidates.

UNA is chaired by Rep. Alfredo Marañon (2nd District). Its candidate for governor is Sagay Mayor Joseph Marañon, Alfredo's brother.

Its members include politicians mainly from the Nationalist People's Coalition, with a handful from the Lakas-NUCD, Nacionalista Party and the Liberal Party.

Aton Tamdon Utod Negrosanon (ATUN) has Coscolluela as its founding chair. Coscolluela, now on his last term as governor, formed the party as an alternative group for local candidates.

ATUN has forged an alliance with the People Power Coalition and is fielding independent candidates from Lakas, Reporma, and LP. Its candidate for governor is Vice Gov. Romeo Gamboa.

Bargaining power

Coscolluela said having local parties allows local candidates more bargaining power with national parties.

But the forming of local parties that have financial difficulties like ATUN has led to alliances with national parties, which, in ATUN's case, is with the PPC.

ATUN offers itself as a "modernist alternative" to the traditional political parties that it said has dominated the Negrenses' political life but have failed to improve their way of life.

ATUN is seen as the poorer party pitted against UNA that is perceived to be backed by the vast Cojuangco wealth.

Coscolluela said the difference between the two parties is that ATUN is people-based in terms of constituency and goals, while UNA represents the traditional political interest that normally represents vested interest.

Cojuangco denied this. "Some have entertained the misguided notion that UNA is my political offspring and a way for me to perpetuate my influence in the province. They are free to say what they think. But the truth is that UNA is the result of the Negrenses' clamor for a professional corps of leaders."

Six of the eight incumbent congressmen of Negros Occidental and Bacolod City are with UNA, all seeking reelection.

Cojuangco said UNA's aim is to wean the Negros Occidental economy from its dependence on sugar production and to "ignite the engines of trade and commerce for Negros."

Both parties vow to fight for the interest of Negrenses. But whether or not they will be the vehicles for change that the people long for remains to be seen.

Alayon

In Cebu, it was at the height of the jueteng *payola* controversy in November last year when allies of then President Joseph Estrada—Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña and Rep. Eduardo Gullas (1st District)—launched the regional party Alayon (Cebuano word for working mutually in groups).

Estrada's Lapian ng Masang Pilipino (LAMP) then suffered defections following accusations linking Estrada to illegal gambling payoffs and tobacco tax kickbacks.

Instead of shifting to the coalesced opposition locally headed by former Cebu governor and Promdi founder Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, Estrada's allies signed up with Alayon. There is also little room for Estrada's allies in Promdi since the Cebu-based party also has its own political leaders in areas dominated by Estrada's allies.

Sonny and Lito are brothers but they have been estranged since 1990.

During the Estrada administration, Sonny was the political supremo in Cebu. He had then expected LAMP bets to win in Cebu in the mid-term elections.

After Estrada's downfall, Sonny declared there are no change of plans because the anticipated shift to the new administration did not happen. He is confident Alayon candidates will still prevail, although their victory will be "laborious."

Sonny chairs Alayon. Aside from Gullas, it is backed by three of the six district representatives in the province, all seeking reelection. Gullas, on his last term, is running for mayor of Talisay City.

In the gubernatorial race, Alayon is supporting Vice Gov. Fernando Celeste to run against Promdi bet incumbent Gov. Pablo Garcia.

Sonny Osmeña's only son, provincial board member John Gregory, is running for vice governor. He is up against former 4th District representative Celestino Martinez Jr.

Alayon is fielding a full slate in Cebu's 48 municipalities but it has no candidates in Cebu City.

In the Senate race, Senator Osmeña said he is asking partymates to support reelectionist senators regardless of party affiliations. They are opposition Puwersa ng Masa candidates Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gringo Honasan as well as People Power Coalition candidates Franklin Drilon, Sergio Osmeña III, Juan Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

He is also supporting Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera, a senatorial candidate of the PPC.

Durano country

Barug Alang sa Kauswagan ug Demokrasya (Stand up for Prosperity and Democracy), or Bakud, is a district-wide party organized in November last year by 5th District politicians led by former congressman Ramon "Nito" Durano III and his son, incumbent Rep. Joseph "Ace" Durano.

Cebu's 5th District comprises Danao City and 10 towns in northern Cebu. Danao City is sometimes called Durano country because political control has been in the hands of the influential political clan for the past 50 years.

The late former congressman Ramon Durano Sr. was in Congress for 6 consecutive terms that spanned more than 24 years. The political torch was passed on to Nito, who was also elected congressman for three consecutive terms. Ace succeeded him in the district and is running for reelection unopposed.

Despite Nito's influence in the district, his mayoralty bid in Danao City faces a tough challenge from the camp of his estranged brother, incumbent Mayor Jesus "Don" Durano, who is on his last term. Don's son Ramon "Monching" Durano V will take on uncle Nito in the mayoralty race. Meanwhile, Jesus is running for vice mayor and he is up against another brother, Ramon Durano Jr.

Ace said Bakud aims to consolidate the efforts and alliances built up by his father and his late grandfather.

Asked if Bakud was established to perpetuate his side of the family's political control of the district, Ace Durano stressed: "The grouping is nothing new. We have been a party for the past 50 years. It is just a matter of putting a face and a name to the group, to formalize and express our goals."

Bando Mandaue

Bando Mandaue is a coalition of Mandaue City politicians opposed to incumbent Mayor Tadeo Ouano, who took over the reigns of this northern city after his father's three-year term ended in 1998.

While elected under Promdi, Ouano joined LAMP after Estrada was elected president and was counted as among the former administration's major supporters in Cebu. He organized political rallies for Estrada at the height of the jueteng controversy and the impeachment trial. But less than 48 hours after Estrada's fall from power, Ouano shifted to Promdi, a member of the People Power Coalition. This aborted moves by local anti-Estrada forces to assume roles in the new administration.

Bando Mandaue's peculiar situation is again reflective of criss-crossing political interests in the local level. It is supporting administration candidate Rep. Efren Herrera in the 6th District race, but is not supporting the Promdi provincial ticket.

Ouano was reported to have entered into an agreement with Alayon, but the mayor is at loggerheads with Alayon's congressional candidate Nerissa Soon-Ruiz.

Bando Mandaue claims to have struck a coalition with Kampi, the original party of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Because the local group was organized to unseat the Ouano administration, the party is headed by mayoralty candidate Ariston Cortes III and vice mayoralty candidate, lawyer Victor Biano as chair and vice chair respectively.

Drawn battle lines

In Cebu City, two local parties draw the battle lines, the Bando Osmeña Pundok Kauswagan (BOPK) led by mayoral candidate Tomas Osmeña, who is on the comeback, and the Kugi Uswag Sugbu (Kusug) formed recently by reelectionist Mayor Alvin Garcia.

Osmeña and Garcia used to be partymates under BOPK. But as the saying goes, there is no permanent friendship in politics.

With Garcia in Kusug is Vice Mayor Renato Osmeña, first cousin of Tomas, and nine councilors. Of the 80 barangay captains in Cebu City, 60 are members of Kusug. At least 80 percent of the barangay councilors are also supporters of Kusug.

BOPK is relying on its mass base supporters or ward leaders.

During the Estrada presidency, Kusug allied itself with LAMP. Although Garcia declared during the party launching in November last year that Kusug wanted to be an independent local party, it was Kusug which mustered the crowd of 5,000 who attended Estrada's rally in Cebu in October last year, at the height of the jueteng scandal.

When the impeachment trial against Estrada started, Garcia and his Kusug tried to distance from Estrada to avoid a backlash. The BOPK, long allied with Promdi, led the anti-Erap rallies in Cebu.

Kusug's main vision—"to prepare Cebu for the new economy by harnessing, marketing and further developing needed services"—is based on pro-poor governance, preservation of environment and promotion of family values.

Garcia said Kusug values honest, participatory governance and a democratic, not autocratic, style of leadership. Multimillion-peso projects will not be a priority in a Kusug administration, he said.

Garcia is the president of Kusug. Renato Osmeña is the executive vice chairman. Samuel Darza, a former friend and ally of Tomas, is the secretary general.

The BOPK is different. Since its creation in 1987, it has avoided putting into writing the group's principles, by-laws and rules.

"We have discouraged it because all the major political parties have principles that are so full of motherhood statements," Tomas Osmeña said.

BOPK's principles are not rigid as those in a religion, he said. "We practice the principles rather than preach (them)," he said.

Tomas said the program of government of BOPK is summed up in eight words—jobs, youth, peace and order, financial efficiency, barangay, infrastructure, good government and business development.

The BOPK does not pledge allegiance to any national party because it believes in local autonomy, Tomas said.

Yellow-ribbon . . .

(From page A1)

just miss him a lot, as we all do," Buan's mother-in-law Francisca Margarita Eco said of the two other kids, Buboy and Katrina, who had prepared yellow banners and were proudly carrying yellow balloons to welcome Buan.

Katrina and the 5-year-old Buboy, who wants to be a soldier like his uncle, were Buan's favorite niece and nephew. They fondly call the Army officer "daddy."

The two children were among some 30 well-wishers who stood patiently on the grounds of the Army headquarters compound, shrieking excitedly at the sight of every airplane that hovered around.

"Is that daddy? Are we going to ride that to see him?" Buboy repeatedly asked his grandmother and Tita Chit, the older sister Cielo (Buan's wife), and Dawn, Cielo's cousin.

Buboy's mom had accompanied Cielo and Jenina to Mansalay town in Oriental Mindoro where the NPA captive was released yesterday.

While the children playfully roamed the grounds, Buan's mistahs in the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984 were busily arranging the accommodations for their classmate.

Some were stationed at the Philippine Army hospital, where Buan was to be taken last night for medical checkup, after which he will undergo a debriefing in an undisclosed place.

Like Buan's family, his PMA batch mates had also prepared banners that read: "Welcome home, Mistah," revealing a sense of respect for the Army intelligence officer who had survived one year and nine months in the hands of communist rebels.

Buan's immediate family is based in the United States, but his relatives in Pampanga had been watching out for his release since last year.

The Buans and the Ecos had been texting and calling one another since the scheduled release was announced last week.

"These are the most trying times in the family, so far," Eco said of Buan's abduction. "Even when he was ambushed several times before, we always knew how he was doing, unlike when he disappeared for almost two years."

"Now, we're just glad he's coming back safe," she said, adding that the house had been cleaned up and that Buan's favorite fried chicken was waiting on the dinner table.

Buan last contacted his family on July 6, 1999, telling Cielo that he would be out on a mission but did not say when he would be back.

Five months later, the NPA's Melito Glor Command owned up to Buan's disappearance and said the intelligence officer was being held for his "crimes against the people."

His wife Cielo had knocked on the doors of Malacañang and learned the language of the rebel groups, practically moving heaven and earth to facilitate the release of her husband.

"It's a good thing Cielo is a strong woman," Eco said of her second daughter, who has been married to Buan for 13 years. "Or else, she would have not managed being happily married to a soldier like Noel."

Eco recalled that the family had reservations about Cielo's choice of Buan at first, noting that the man was in the military and would live the life of a family man constantly away from home.

"But you know, when it comes to matters of the heart," Eco said, with a smile.

Cielo's family has no regrets, however, as Buan had proven to be a very good son-in-law who loved Cielo's parents and siblings as his own.

"I couldn't find a single bad thing to say about him. In all these years, he continues to be the good son that he has been to me," Eco said. "I can't imagine Cielo being married to another."

Buan had been well accepted by Cielo's family that it did not blame him for the pains that his absence had caused.

"All we want now is some private time, so we could just be with him and feel that he really is back home with us," said Cielo's cousin Dawn.

'The torment is over'

(From page A1)

happy)."

Buan refused to answer queries on his experience as a captive of the NPA's Melito Glor Command. "No comment" was his answer to at least two of the questions.

Buan thanked the parties responsible for his release, particularly Sen. Loren Legarda, a member of the humanitarian and peace mission that coordinated the release.

"Mission accomplished. Noel Buan is finally at home," Legarda said.

Legarda also thanked Ms Macapagal for having ordered a suspension of military and police operations that facilitated Buan's release.

Silvestre Bello III, head of the government panel that will negotiate with the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), said "we are happy over the confidence-building measure the NDF has extended to the government panel."

Buan's release is meant to improve the atmosphere for the peace talks between the NDF and the government, scheduled to start April 27 in Oslo, Norway.

"This is a very, very positive step," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said as the teams prepared for Buan's handover. "We are on the eve of the start of the peace talks. This will add to the confidence-building measures so the two panels can talk well with each other," he said.

To facilitate the release, the government declared a limited ceasefire and confined special military forces to their barracks in the area. The rebels also declared a ceasefire in Oriental Mindoro and nearby provinces.

Ka Roger's surprise appearance

Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger, national spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA, made a surprise appearance after persistent reports from the military that he was seriously ill.

Looking in the pink of health, Rosal appeared to have gained weight compared to his last appearance before the media last year. He had suffered a mild stroke.

In an earlier interview, Rosal explained his long silence.

"*Magkasabay kaming lumaya ni Buan* (I and Buan were released at the same time)" he said in jest.

Rosal said his long absence was purely in observance of security procedures.

He said they were also happy that Buan had been turned over to his family.

But Rosal said that they would even be happier if the government released all the remaining political prisoners.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the Macapagal administration would study the case of other political detainees. The government had earlier released political prisoners.

Perez described the release of Buan as a success.

"No untoward incident happened and we hope that this will be the beginning of a more beautiful relationship," he said.

Red Cross

Tirso Alcantara, alias Ka Bart, spokesperson of the Melito Glor Command, said the NPA had first turned over Buan to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at about 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Alcantara said doctors checked Buan's health. The newly released NPA captive was later interviewed by lawyers, who wanted to ensure that his rights under international humanitarian laws were observed.

At the second stage of the release, the ICRC turned over Buan to the government panel and to the humanitarian mission at about 1:30 p.m., according to Alcantara.

Among those present were Bello, retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita, Perez, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza and human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong.

The last stage of the release was at Barangay Baet, a Mangyan community.

Fully armed NPA rebels wearing black shirts marked custodial force of the Melito Glor Command manned roads leading to the release site. The shirts were marked CPP NPA NDFP at the back.

In a speech before Buan was presented, Alcantara thanked the people of the local communities for helping the NPA hide Buan in the face of relentless efforts by the military to rescue him.

Alcantara expressed sadness that another captive, Martin, was killed in a failed rescue attempt by Army Rangers in Nakar town in Quezon on March 8.

The humanitarian mission and the government panel escorted Buan in a short climb over a hill where the basketball court was located.

After the ceremonies Buan and his family rode with Legarda.

The helicopter bearing Buan, Jenina and Legarda took off from Bongabong town at 8:10 p.m., according to still unconfirmed accounts.

Legarda's convoy got separated from the main convoy and because of miscommunication was not able to reach the take-off point on time. Members of the government panel had to wait for the senator's convoy starting 6:30 p.m.

The Buans were expected to proceed to Fort Bonifacio in Makati where the Army major would be presented to Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, Army commanding general.

Immunity from arrest

Bello said that the joint agreement on security and immunity guarantees (Jasig) between the government and the NDF had recently been revived.

The revival of the Jasig was in time for the arrival on April 8 in Manila of the NDF peace panel led by Luis Jalandoni.

The NDF panel will meet the government panel in a peace conference scheduled for April 18 in Manila, which will be hosted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines.

Now that Buan has been released from captivity, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon urged the government to extend the suspension of military offensives against the NPA beyond April 11.

He also urged that the suspension, which only covered Southern Tagalog, be implemented nationwide.

Biazon said the government should do this if it was serious in giving peace a chance in the country.

"Let Buan's release serve a purpose," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona said the suspension of military and police operations against the NPA could be extended, and its coverage widened because of Buan's release.

In Camp Aguinaldo, a ranking official of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) expressed concern that Buan might have suffered the Stockholm syndrome.

A captive suffering from the syndrome identifies with the cause of the enemy.

The officer, who asked not to be named, said Buan should not expect to get his old post as chief of intelligence of the Southern Luzon Command.

The intelligence officer said Buan would have to undergo a debriefing. ***With reports from Donna S. Cueto, Christine Avendaño and Christine Herrera***

Erap cases could drag on for years

(From page A1)

Ilarde, an Estrada appointee, as members.

The other accused in this case are San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Edward Serapio, Yolanda Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas.

The third division also received Case No. 26563 accusing Estrada, Jinggoy, Serapio and Ricaforte of violating a provision in RA 6719 against the solicitation or acceptance of gifts.

Estrada's lawyers are gearing for a protracted legal battle with their move asking the Supreme Court to stop the Sandigan from hearing the cases lodged against him.

"What we are asking for is the stopping or the holding in abeyance of the proceedings before the Sandiganbayan, for (the court) to remand the cases back to the Office of the Ombudsman and to direct (it) to continue with the preliminary investigation of the complaints filed by a number of complainants," said lawyer Raymond Fortun.

Asked how long the process would take, Fortun said in Filipino: "I see this case dragging on for years. This is going to be a long process."

Even Ombudsman Aniano Desierto foresaw a long and tedious legal battle, saying in a TV interview yesterday that Estrada's defense team would try every trick in the law books to delay, if not stop, the proceedings at the Sandigan.

But he pointed out that an expeditious resolution of the cases would still be possible if the Sandigan and the Supreme Court refused to entertain the supposed dilatory tactics.

Desierto said resolving the cases within a reasonable time would benefit both the prosecution and defense.

"I think the defense will agree with the prosecution panel to speed up the process if it wants to immediately erase the stain on the image of its client," he said.

More than 10

Right after the raffle, Badoy said he might need more than 10 days to examine the documents on the cases assigned to him.

"The supporting documents will be voluminous," he noted. "But we are mandated to study all of the evidence before deciding on probable cause. While there is a need for transparency and a speedy resolution of the cases, we also have to be careful about studying the evidence."

He added: "All this should really take more than 10 days, but we will do our best."

The first division chaired by presiding officer Francis Garchitorena received two cases:

- No. 26561, which accuses Estrada of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, particularly of the provision against giving private parties unwarranted benefits through "manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence."

The other accused in this case are former first lady Luisa Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada, Ang, Alfaro, Tan and Rajas.

- No. 26566, which charges former Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer Jose Jaime Policarpio with indirect bribery.

Garchitorena was not able to face reporters yesterday as he was on official leave.

Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the second division, received Case No. 26562, which solely lists Estrada as a violator of the anti-graft law.

The fourth division chaired by Justice Narciso Nario received Case No. 26559 charging Estrada, Ang, Alfaro, Tan and Rajas with the anti-graft law, as well as Case No. 26564 accusing Estrada of perjury.

The fifth division headed by Nazaria received Case No. 26560 charging Estrada with graft, and Case No. 26565 accusing him of illegal use of an alias.

'Jueteng' flask

The Sandigan justices used a striped red-and-white plastic flask, the same contraption that "jueteng" operators use to determine the day's winning numbers, in raffling off Estrada's criminal cases.

Journalists covering the event quickly noted this but stifled their snickers lest the justices be offended and cite them in contempt.

"It's so ironic," murmured a wire reporter. "Jueteng pulled down Estrada from power, and now its memory is still around to determine his fate."

But someone pointed out that the use of the plastic flask was not intended to add insult to Estrada's injuries.

The court has apparently been using the flask and five colored glass marbles—the kind children use in street games—to raffle off criminal suits against government officials to its five divisions.

But the lottery notwithstanding, Fortun said the Ombudsman had failed to inform Estrada of two cases it had filed.

He said one involved the alleged P3.2-billion "Jose Velarde" account, and the other, allegations made by former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay on the purchase of Belle Corp. stocks.

This is a denial of due process, Fortun said.

On the matter of where Estrada would be jailed, Fortun said: "That's up to the court to decide, if he will be granted bail. We'll be questioning the plunder charge."

Dilatory tactics

Desierto listed some of the supposed dilatory tactics that Estrada's lawyers could resort to once the Sandigan started hearing the charges filed against Estrada.

He said the special prosecution panel comprising himself, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo were anticipating these moves.

Desierto said Estrada's lawyers could:

- Petition the Supreme Court to issue a status quo order on the cases, citing their pending second motion for reconsideration filed by Rene Saguisag on Thursday.
- File another motion for reconsideration questioning the joint resolution of the Ombudsman.
- Question the constitutionality of the plunder law (RA 7080), which treats plunder as a capital offense and, thus, punishable by death.
- File a petition for the determination of probable cause.

At the extreme, Desierto said, Estrada's lawyers might even file motions to quash the information.

"Actually, they can cite many grounds and put up other legal obstacles to delay the proceedings. But I cannot reveal them so as not to preempt their moves," he said, adding:

"If I reveal all the possible legal moves, I can be accused of coaching them, or maybe giving them ideas."

Live coverage

Members of multisectoral groups that mounted anti-Estrada protest actions in Cebu want live coverage of his trial at the Sandigan.

"I'm eager to hear (Estrada's) defense and justification on how he amassed the P4 billion worth of money and property during his two and a half years as president," said Paul Rodriguez of Bayan-Central Visayas.

"The awareness would serve as deterrence to all public officials and as lesson for all Filipinos, especially if Erap is convicted," he added.

Lawyer Gabriel Ingles, spokesperson of Barug Sugbu, said: "Public interest is still high. In the spirit of openness and transparency, the trial must be open to the public." ***With a report from Nagiel B. Bañacia, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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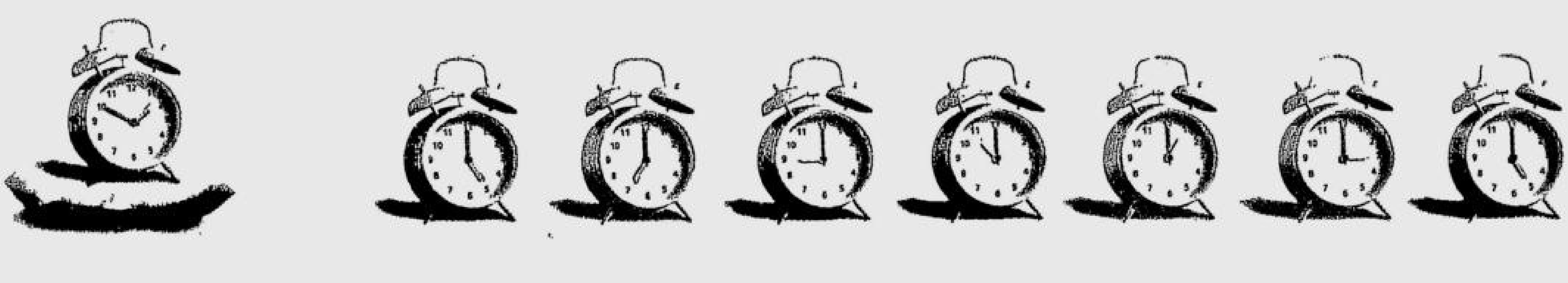

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Woods 5 behind in Masters

AUGUSTA, Georgia — Tiger Woods' first stop on his road to a fourth straight major championship took a detour into the trees at the Masters.

With the ball sitting on a patch of pine straw, Woods sized up his options _ over, under or around the Georgia pines at Augusta National on Thursday (Friday in Manila). He settled on a 2-iron to punch beneath the limbs, but the ball ran into a bunker in front of the green.

Bogey.

That didn't bother him. Neither did the 7-under 65 by Masters rookie Chris DiMarco, or the fact that Woods wasn't among the 14 players who broke 70.

"This is a major championship. It's four days," Woods said after a 2-under 70 that left him five strokes out of the lead. "Everyone knows it's awfully hard to go out there and shoot in the mid-60s every day."

He can only hope DiMarco figures that out soon.

With Augusta playing soft and forgiving _ some players dared say "easy" _ DiMarco made seven birdies in his first 13 holes for the best opening round by a Masters first-timer in 11 years and a one-stroke lead over Steve Stricker and Angel Cabrera.

"You're not going to have things go your way all the time, and I had everything go my way today," DiMarco said. "I just hope it stays like that."

Woods couldn't say the same.

It was the seventh straight year, the last five as a professional, that he failed to break 70 in the first round of the Masters.

"If you can just shoot under par ... that was my mindset going out there today," Woods said. "And I was able to do that."

This was a day that offered something much better _ barely a trace of wind and moisture still in the manicured grass from rain earlier in the week.

So many others took advantage.

Phil Mickelson, Woods' chief rival over the past year, made four straight birdies on the back nine for a 67 and his best start in five years at Augusta.

Pactolerin grabs CAP-F Hills lead

BY JONG ARCANO

ANTIPOLO—Robert "The Streaker" Pactolerin made his now all too familiar charge. And so did the kid brother of a dollar-earning superstar still finding a way to contribute a little honor to his Miñoza surname.

The scalding temperature and the level of play remained on the rise and Robert Pactolerin got everybody burned with a five-under stint through his first six holes.

Pactoelrin shot a six-under-par 65 yesterday to wrest a two-stroke lead in the College Assurance Plan-Forest Hills Classic.

A dozen in the 60s and four more in the 70s punctuated a grand assault of the sun-baked course where Peter Miñoza assembled his own eagle-spiked 65 to bolt into contention for the crown.

After watching somebody else come from behind to deny him of his first title this season last month at Sherwood Hills, Pactolerin was poised for redemption as he towed the 32 survivors of the halfway cut with a 133 aggregate. Miñoza was three down at 136.

Also just three behind are Gerald Rosales (68) and first round leader Danny Zarate (70). Cassius Casas was four down and Tony Lascuña (71) six down.

Southwoods jungolf champ

FORMER national amateur champion Artemio Murakami played his farewell tournament as a jungolfer by leading Manila Southwoods to a 10-stroke victory in the recent Annual Jungolf Interclub at the exclusive Manila Golf Club course.

Murakami teamed up with Lyndon Barril, Justin Tambunting and Carlo Coronel to defeat the Gene Bondoc-led Sherwood Hills.

Kagitingan, led by brothers Don and DJ Padilla, placed third while Riviera settled for fourth in the second leg of the summer circuit of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines sponsored by Northwest Airlines.

Bondoc topped Class A. Kim Chang Hoi of Sherwoods won Class B.

Katrina Gonzales and Jayvee Agojo won the girls Class A and B titles, respectively.

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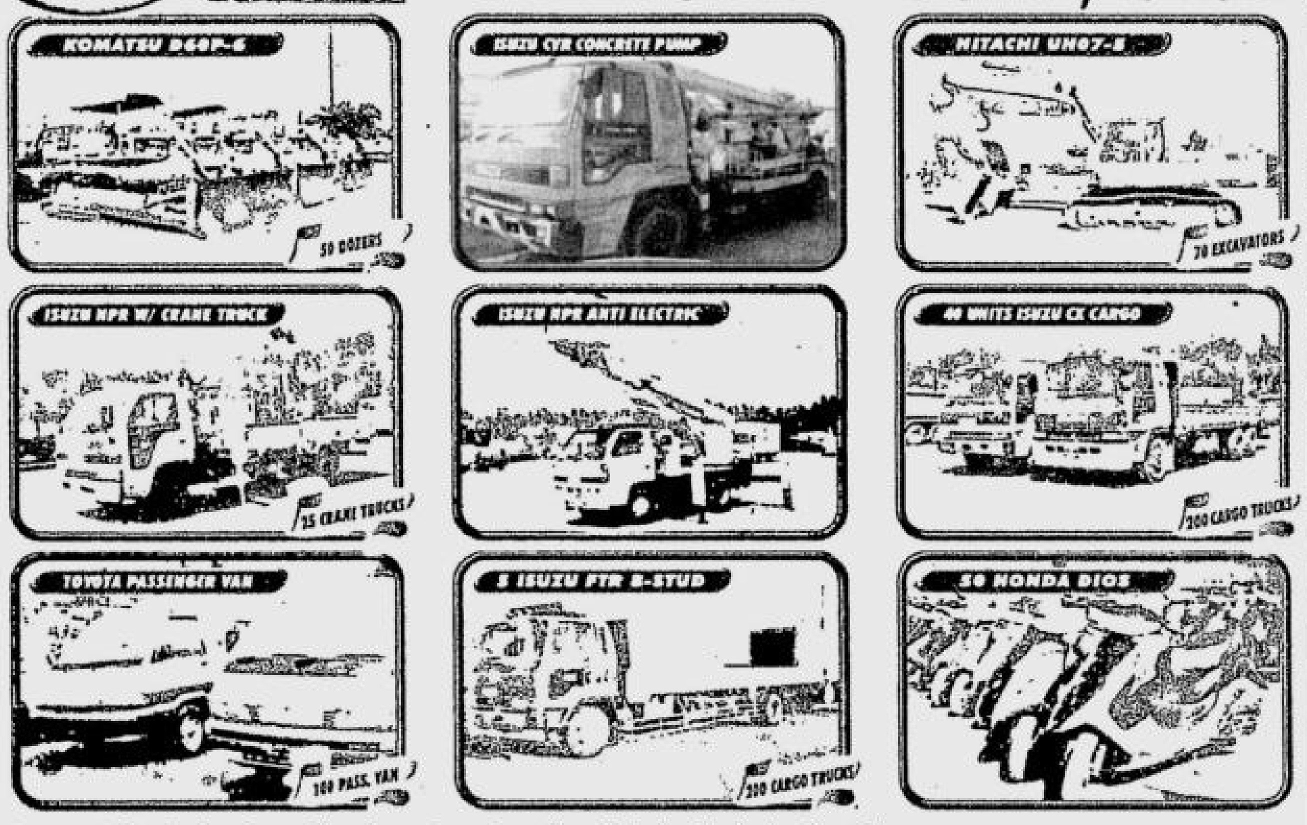

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Subic raceway renovation

THE SUBIC International Raceway will host the "Asian Festival of Speed" and the "SVI-Subic Grand Prix" on April 7-8 before undergoing a facelift next month. George Ramirez said the 2.8 kilometer seaside course will be reconstructed "to make it at par with international standards." Call 671-6926 for more details.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

RP vs Thailand for Seaba crown

Purefoods makes PBA's Final 4

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta)
5:15 p.m. — Mobiline San Miguel
7:30 p.m. — Tanduay vs Alaska

PUREFOODS recovered from a fourth-quarter slack to beat Shell Velocity, 81-72, last night and make the Top Four of the PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

In the second game, Pop Cola completed the Final Four cast with a 92-90 win over Barangay Ginebra.

Games Today (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—Vietnam vs Malaysia (for 5th place)
3:30 p.m.—Singapore vs Indonesia (for 3rd)
5:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (crown)

BY ROY LUARCA

COACH Boyzie Zamar continues to downplay the Philippine team's chances against Thailand in their 5:30 p.m. title duel today, but nobody believes him anymore.

After dumping the Indons, 88-41, yesterday, the Filipinos have been installed favorites to beat the Thais and retain their crown in the 4th South East Asia Basketball Association men's championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"Thailand is vastly different from Indonesia. Its players have been together longer as a team, making them more experienced than the rest of us," said Zamar.

The Thais' stock dipped, however, following their struggling 70-60 win over the Singaporeans in the other crossover semifinal yesterday.

In contrast, the Filipinos, composed of MBA stalwarts, never gave the 1996 champion Indons a chance to win.

Again employing their dreaded full court trap, the Filipinos held the Indons to just two points in the second quarter to pull away, 45-11, behind the hot hands of Stephen Padilla.

The Indons' morale sank after that and trailed their hosts at least 30 points the rest of the way.

Attending today's closing ceremonies are PSC chair Butch Tuason and Asian Basketball Confederation president Carl Menky Ching. Also invited were POC president Celso Dayrit and chair Robert Aventajado.

The seven-nation tournament is supported by Casino Filipino, PCSO, Columbian International Foods, Lipovitan, Manny Villar, Alaxan-Unilab, McGills Paint, bestank, Molten, La Suerte-Telengtan Bros., Baker's Fair and YKL Color Films.

The scores:

PHILIPPINES 88—Calagulo 15, Adducul 14, Martin 11, Laure 10, Padilla 10, Ferriols 8, Mendiola 7, Rodriguez 5, Se 2, De la Rosa 2, Victolero 2.

INDONESIA 41—Handjoyo 7, Wibawa 7, Hantono 5, Soemargo 5, Bodianto 5, Menara 4, Tenaya 3, Chandra 2, Daryono 2, Jhonson 1.

Halftime: 55-23.

Upsets rock Lancer netfest

BY JUNE NAVARRO

UPSETS were the order of the day as unseeded players booted out the favorites yesterday in the semifinals of the boys' 12th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Australian Clinton Letcher upset top-seeded Jonathan Chu of the United States, 6-1, 0-6, 6-4, to set up a finals encounter with another unseeded bet, Luka Gregorc of Slovenia.

Gregorc beat Chu's compatriot, the second-seeded Prakash Amritraj, 6-2, 6-1, in the other boys' semifinals showdown.

While predictions in the boys' division had gone astray, the road to the finals in the girls' division followed its natural course. Defending champion Angelique Widjaja of Indonesia hammered out a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Amber Liu of the United States.

Second-seeded Su-Wei Hsieh of Taipei also agonized before repulsing India's Sanja Mirza, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1, to earn a seat in the finals against Widjaja, the tournament's top seeded player.

Czarina Mae Arevalo and Diana Julianto of Indonesia yielded to the Korean tandem of Yoo-Mi Jung and Sae-Mi Lim, 7-5, 6-3 in the semifinals of girls doubles.

Shark seeks 4th win today

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—PharmaQuick vs Montaña
3:30 p.m.—Osaka vs Shark Energy

PACESETTER Shark Energy Drink seeks its fourth straight win against tailender Osaka Iridology today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Shark is heavily-favored to prevail against Osaka, which hopes to join the winner's circle after it signed up ex-pro Rommel Daep. The entry of the 6-foot-2 Daep, a member of Tanduay's PBL Grand Slam team, will give Osaka a slasher.

The Osaka-Shark encounter is set at 3:30 p.m., after the 1:30 game between Montaña and PharmaQuick.

Shark won its last three games via swirling finishes, while Osaka had the tendency to collapse when pressured.

SPORTSWATCH

Torre outwits Garma

STANDINGS after Rd 5

Bitoon 4.5; Torre 4; Antonio 3.5; Villamayor, Garma, Sayson 3; Gonzales 2.5; Datu, Laylo, Senador 2, Sales .5, Olay 0.

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre used the black pieces in beating IM Chito Garma yesterday in the fifth round of the National Open chess championships at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS Bldg. in Quezon City. Torre now has 4 points, half a point behind solo leader and NM Richard Bitoon. Bitoon downed Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales in 36 moves of an English Opening. Joey Antonio drew with fellow GM Bong Villamayor for 3.5 pts. Jonalyn Torres rocked the women's division finals with a stunning win over NM Sherrie Joy Lomibao in 59 moves of a Red Opening.

Boxers in Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba—Sydney Olympians Romeo Brin and brothers Danny and Arlan Lerio start their bids in the Cordova Cardin Boxing Championships at the Kid Chocolate Gymnasium here. This will be the first international competition for the Caltex-powered Filipino Olympians since the summer Games. Danilo meets lightflyweight Yuriolki Gamboa, while Brin faces lightwelterweight Diogenes Luna. Arlan, a bantamweight, takes on Guatemala's Carlos Lopez.

Elorde showdown

ELORDE International Productions presents today the pre-Lenten boxing showdown at the Grand Flash Ballroom of the Elorde Sports Complex. The show starts at 6 p.m. The event is a prelude to the return of the weekly TV boxing show in the country promoted by Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr., the man behind the recent WBC International championship which featured Manny Pacquiao.

Yenko at Scoop

PBA chair Ignatius Yenko of Mobiline told the Scoop sa Kamayan yesterday that he was looking for ways to improve the league's gate receipts."I really couldn't do much with my one-year term but the board is looking at steps to strengthen the PBA," Yenko said. While stressing that the board still has to meet whether or not to allow the zone defense, Yenko quashed rumors that Mobiline coach Louie Alas was on the way out.

Capitan derby on

THE ONLY derby today in Metro Manila is set at Mandaluyong Coliseum as the "Capitan 5-Cock derby" sizzles at 7 p.m., featuring more than 50 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. The hosts of this one-day event are partners John Capinpin and James Uy, who are regular fixtures in NCA and Ucap derbies using the Capitan and AT The Player entries. After this event, the next derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum is on April 17 and April 19 via the "10th Ucap/San Pedro GP Eagle 6-Cock Derby" with Jet Fernando, Ramon Mencenares and Ting Ariosa as co-hosts.

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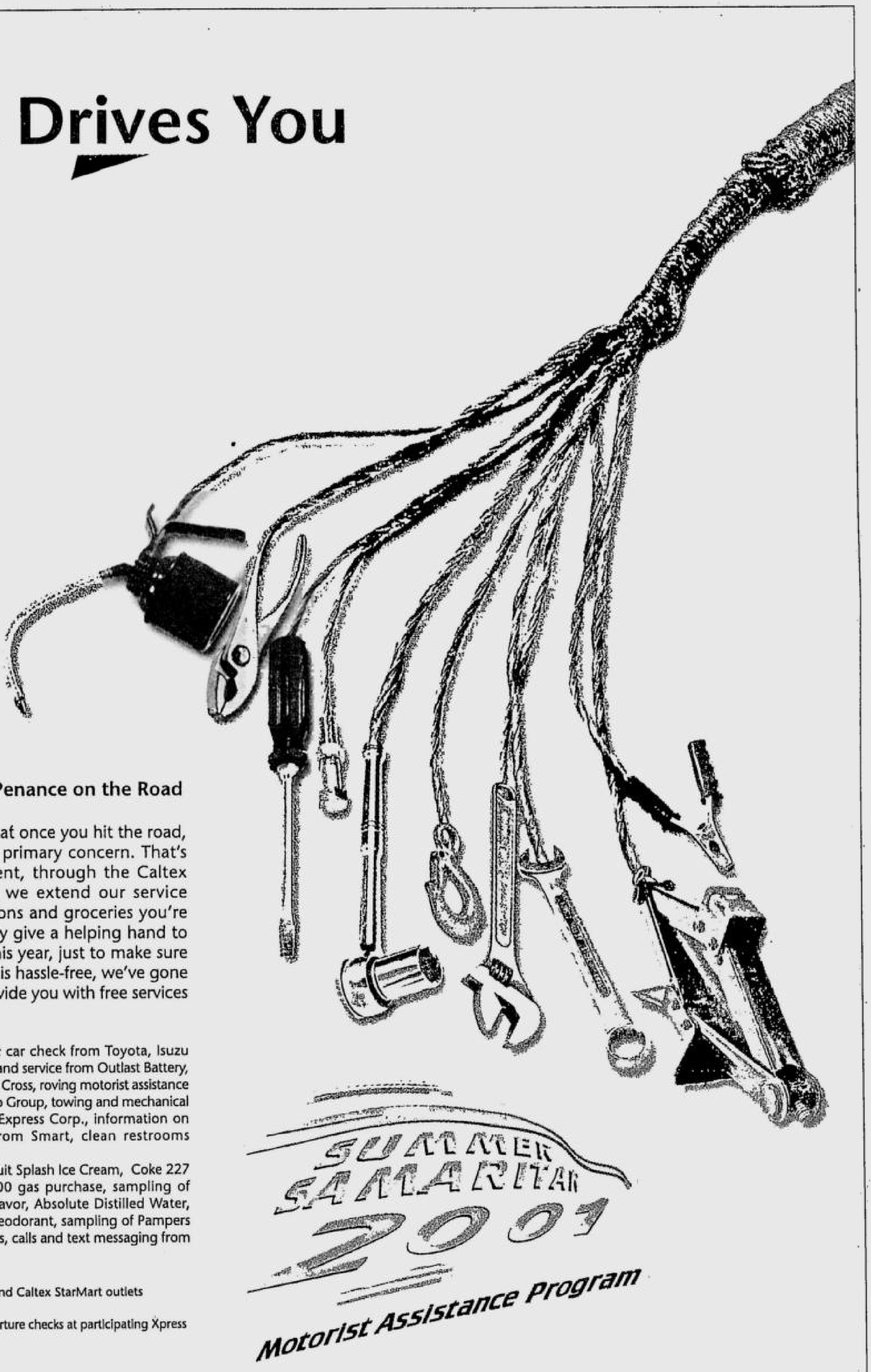
Race 3—1. Shot Gun 2. Never Mine 3. Oneofakind 4. Empire Girl 5. Agimat
Race 4—1. Imus Emperor 2. Magic Fingers 3. The Serpent 4. Hingis 5. Test Run
Race 5—1. Le Voyager 2. Snake Dancer 3. Divine Wind 4. Time Essential
Race 6—1. Battle Hero 2. Dynasty 3. Foolish Heart 4. Aya's Dream 5. Snowy's Best
Race 7—1. Nevada Dancer 2. Deputy Parade 3. Plus Factor 4. Roman Dance 5. Quest for Gold
Race 8—1. Opening Prospect 2. Party Princess 3. Green Leaves 4. Regal Reality 5. One More Time
Race 9—1. Make Your Mark 2. Hearts on Fire 3. Guts Pleaser
Race 10—1. Bulwak 2. Petitioner 3. Gold and Dollar 4. Legacy 5. Red Thunder
Race 11—1. Leverage Buyer 2. Union City Boy 3. Noble Heart 4. Sukiyaki Blues 5. Above All
Race 12—1. Deputy Royale 2. Silver Lining 3. Might and Power 4. Silent Wind
Race 13—1. Gold Marlin 2. Marvelous Jay 3. Native Talent 4. Legitimo 5. Marinela

What Drives You



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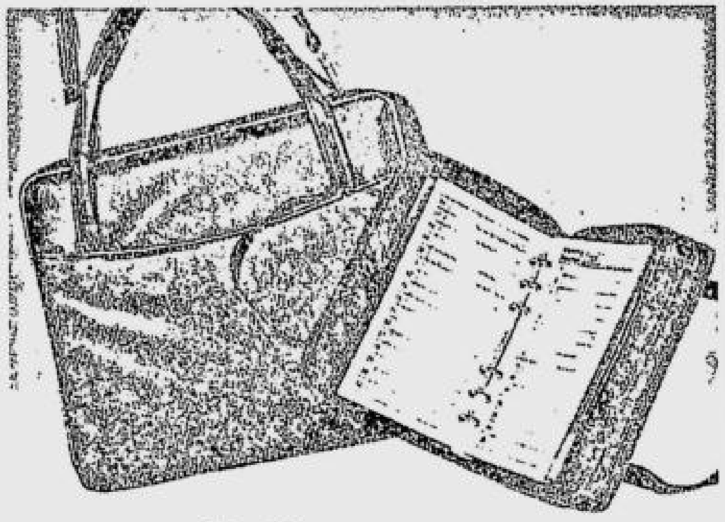

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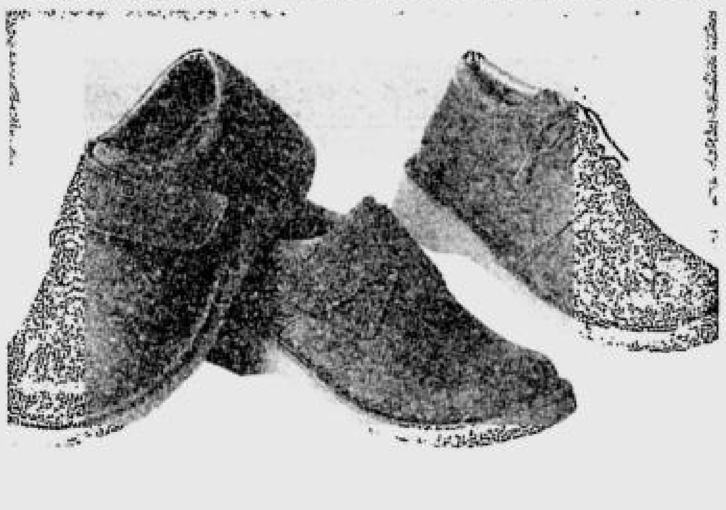

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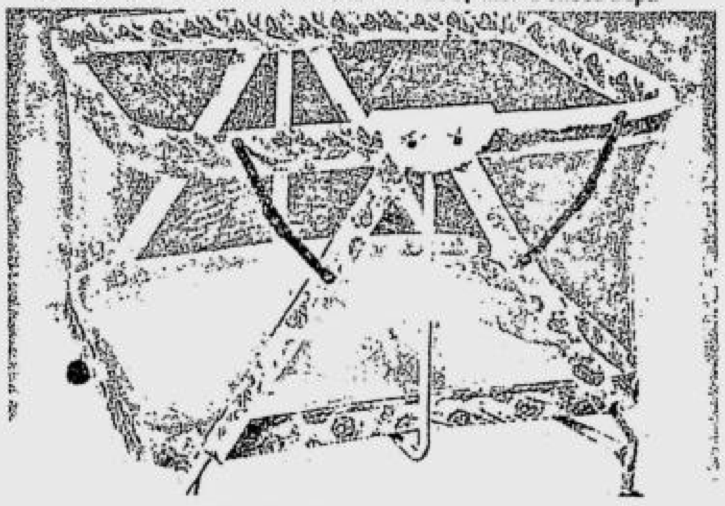

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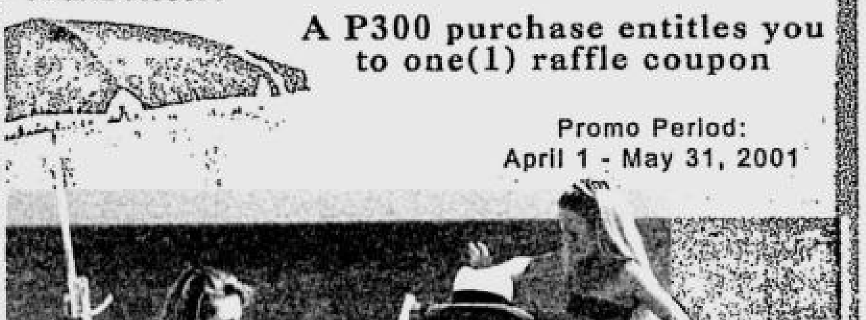

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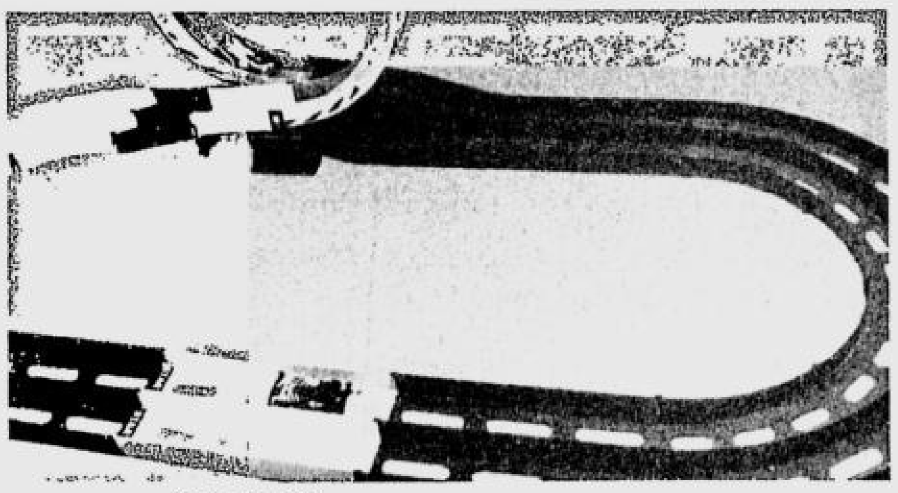

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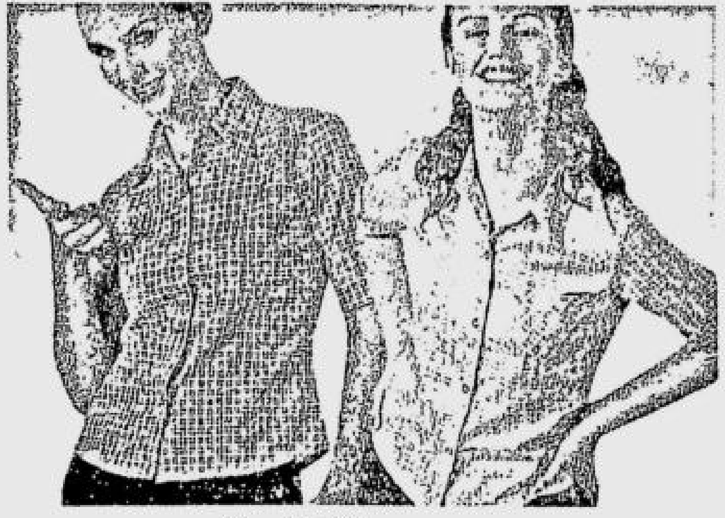

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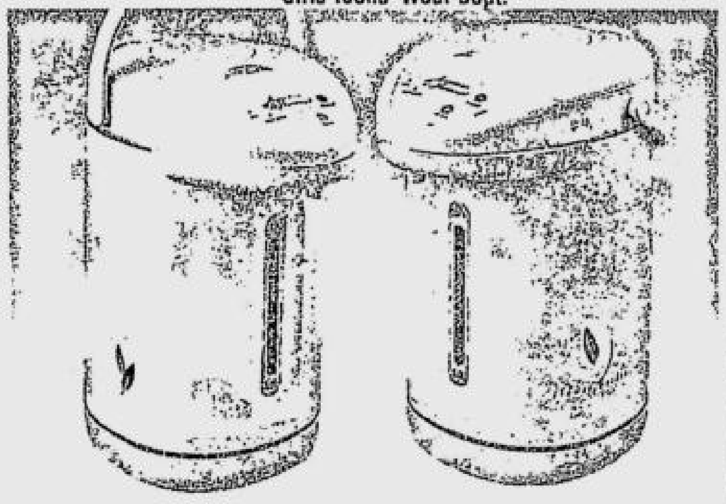

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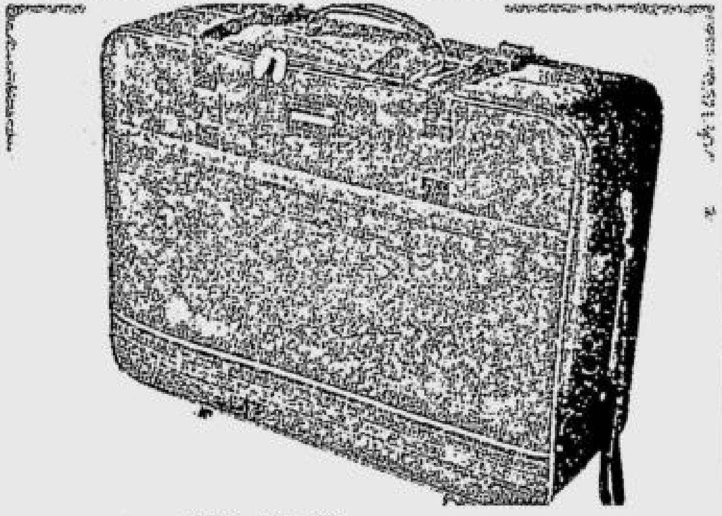

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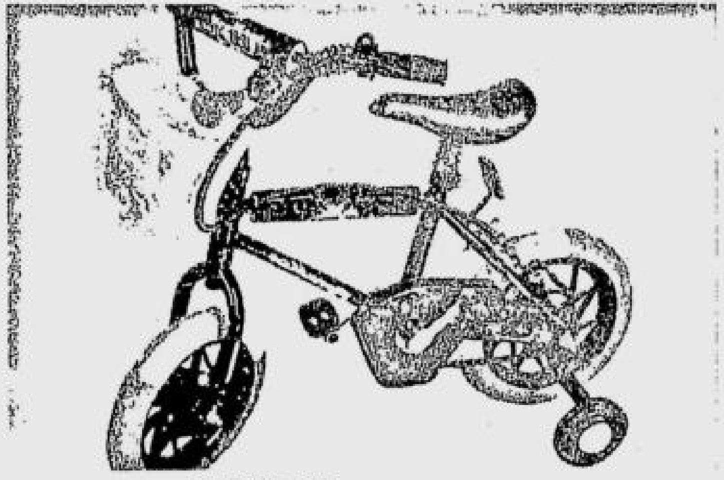

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Voter's Voice 2001 Page A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

5 dead in 3 accidents in Valenzuela, Bulacan A24

Trader gets death for drug-pushing

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A CHINESE businessman yesterday was sentenced to death for selling illegal drugs in Malabon last year.

Su Zhi Shan, also known as Alvin Ching, 32, of Araneta Village, Malabon, was sentenced to death by Judge Benjamin Aquino of the Malabon Regional Trial Court Branch 72.

On March 31, 2000, police arrested Ching for selling 495.3 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride). Lawmen also seized 15,076.1 grams of shabu in Ching's house hours after he was caught.

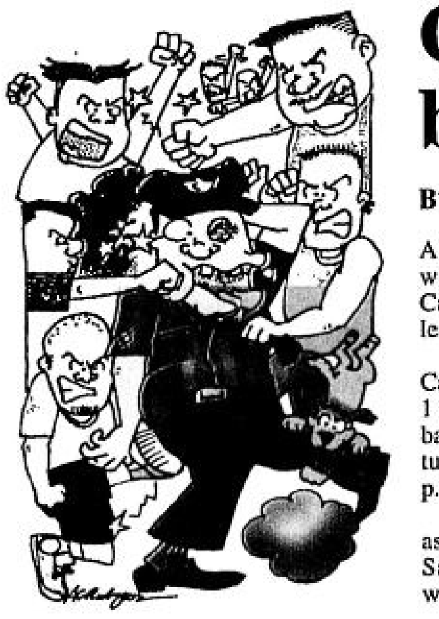
It was Aquino's first time to issue a death sentence.

He also ordered Ching to pay the maximum fine of P10 million.

Members of the Narcotics Command arrested Ching in the act of selling shabu to an undercover policeman on Victoneta Avenue in Barangay Potrero, Malabon.

An informer had tipped off police about Ching's illegal activities. Senior Insp. Eleazar Matta placed the suspect under surveillance round

TRADER GETS/ A23



Cop goes wild, gets beaten up by 48 men

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A POLICEMAN who allegedly went wild during a basketball game in Caloocan City was beaten up by at least 48 men Thursday night.

PO2 Michael Viray of the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 1 suffered several body injuries after basketball players and viewers took turns in beating him up at about 9 p.m. on Thursday, police said.

Viray was said to have gone wild as he confronted Danilo Caralde, 23, Sangguniang Kabataan president, whom he suspected of having harassed his wife, said case investigator SPO2 Vivencio Gamboa. Caralde organized the basketball game.

Viray allegedly started poking his service firearm, a 9-mm Beretta, at the people present during the basketball game at the corner of Gen. Concepcion and Adelfa streets in Bagong Barrio, investigation showed.

The basketball players and spectators went to Caralde's rescue and allegedly beat up Viray, Gamboa said.

Viray's gun appeared to have been stolen during the incident, prompting him to file theft charges against his attackers.

3 drug suspects face murder raps for 2 cops' death

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE CENTRAL Police District is throwing the book at three suspected drug pushers for taking hostage two wounded policemen and letting them bleed to death on Thursday following a botched buy-bust operation in Quezon City.

Two other CPD policemen were wounded in the same firefight that happened at the start of the seven-hour long hostage drama.

Two counts of murder, two counts of frustrated murder, illegal possession of drugs, and violation of the election gun ban would be filed against Restituto P. Carandang, 59, of Barangay Longos, Malolos, Bulacan, Jacaman Y. Chua, 34, of Calavite Street, Barangay Salvacion La Loma, Quezon City and Chua's neighbor Henry Umali, said SPO3 Roger Yalung.

Carandang is now detained at Camp Karingal in Quezon City, while Umali and Chua are receiving treatment under guard at the Chinese General Hospital.

CPD policemen SPO2 Wilfredo P. Red, 44, and PO3 Dionisio Alonzo died in the line of duty when

3 DRUG/ A23

Businessman found dead in mall CR

BY JEROME ANING

A 69-YEAR-OLD Chinese Filipino businessman who answered nature's call while shopping was found dead in a mall comfort room in Sta. Cruz, Manila Thursday night.

Janitors found Qui Ling Lee, a Chinese citizen who was temporarily staying at 1264-D Buenavidez St., Binondo, dead in the CR about an hour after he entered it, according to Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the Western Police District homicide section.

Police said several vendors at the Ongpin Shopping Mall on Ongpin Street in Sta. Cruz recalled Qui inquiring where the CR was around 9 p.m. When the mall closed about an hour later, the janitors figured out that someone was still inside one of the CR cubicles. When Qui failed to respond to their calls, the janitors summoned the mall guards, who broke the lock of the cubicle. They found Qui seated on the toilet bowl, with his pants down.

Taluban said investigators have ruled out foul play. He said the Chinese could have been so exhausted from shopping that he suffered a heart attack.

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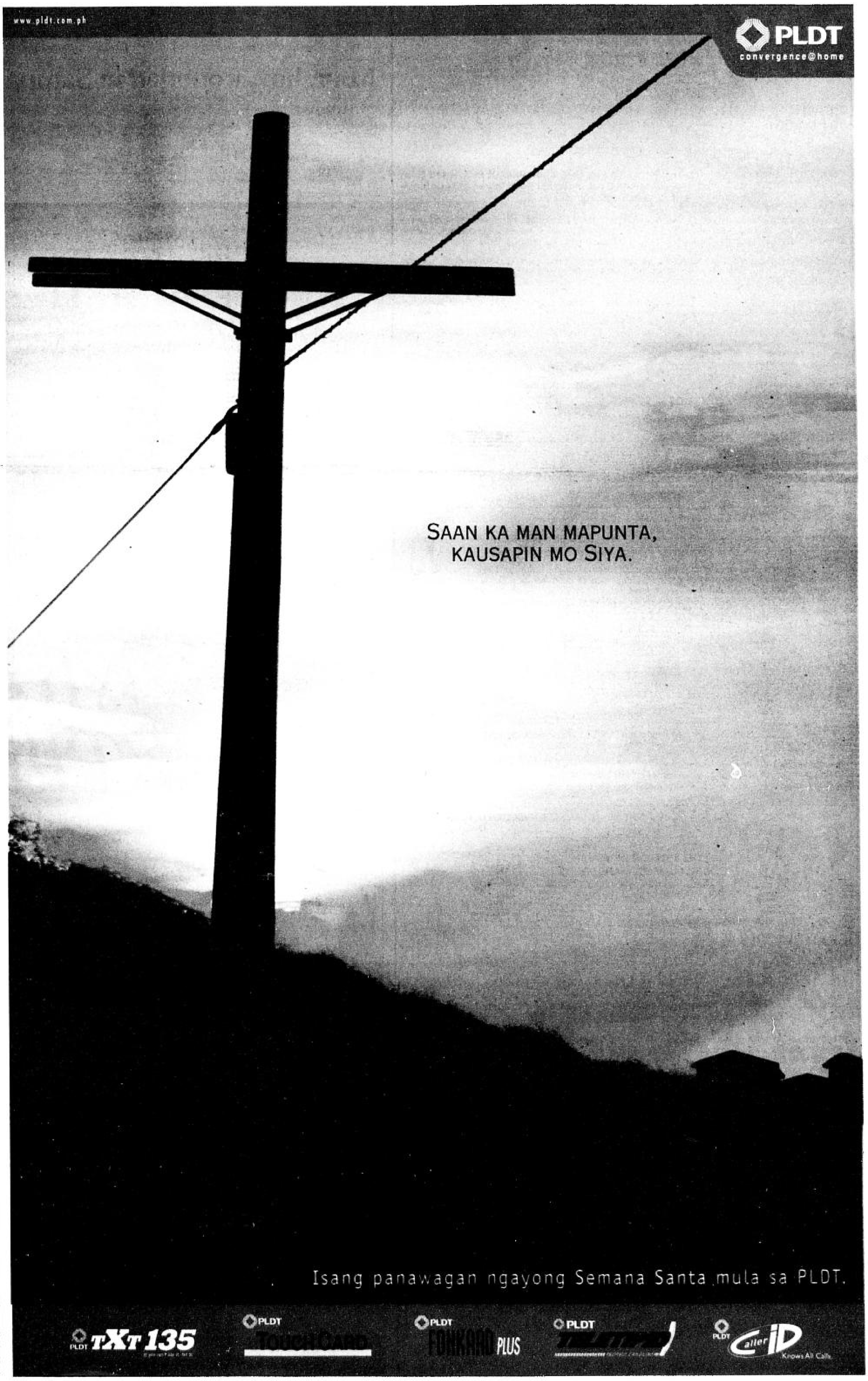


My first hostage-taking negotiation

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FOR THE first time in my journalistic career, I got involved in a hostage negotiation Thursday night when two hostage-takers asked for me so their safety could be assured after their surrender.

"Why me? " I told Tina Yu, a member of my staff in my public service program "Isumbong Mo kay Tulfo."

The news department of radio station dwIZ, where I have a daily program, had called up Tina. According to the message that she got, two men holed up in a house inside a compound in La Loma, Quezon City were asking for me. I was then having dinner with some friends at a restaurant in Makati when the call came.

In my many years of covering the police beat, no hostage taker had ever asked for me. They always asked for either Ruther Batuigas, ace reporter at the time, or the late Max Buan, another prominent crime reporter.

* * *

"I don't know why they're asking for you, *bosing,*" Tina said, laughing. *"Baka naman nagaguapuhan sila sa iyo."*

I learned later I was just playing second fiddle to my younger brother Erwin, police reporter of ABS-CBN. The two suspects, Resty Carandang, alias Junior Komang, and Jackman Chua, initially asked for Erwin but he could not come because he was covering the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

I arrived at the hostage scene a little past 10 o'clock. The place was crawling with cops, fellow journalists and the usual "uzis" or kibitzers. I had to walk quite a distance to the compound where the two suspects were holed up.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, newly installed director of the Central Police District (CPD), was already negotiating with the suspects through a megaphone.

* * *

We didn't know it then but there was already nothing to discuss with the suspects. The two cops, SPO2 Wally Red and PO3 Dionisio Alonso, who were first reported as hostages, were already dead inside the house.

Colonel Tor and I also thought the two men were also holding hostage several civilians, including a woman eight months pregnant. But unknown to Carandang and Chua, the civilians had locked themselves safely in another part of the compound. Junior Komang, a former military informer in Mindanao, and Jackman were too concerned about getting out of there alive to think about taking hostages. Chua was bleeding from a wound in one foot.

But we didn't know about this until later.

* * *

I was impressed with the way Tor, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1972, negotiated with the suspects. He talked with them for several hours via the megaphone and he made them talk to him.

I alternated with him in talking with Carandang and Chua, who were known in the neighborhood as drug pushers.

The two men finally surrendered when a police officer they had asked for, Senior Supt. Doroteo A. Reyes II, acting chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Legal Service Group, arrived.

Reyes and Tor were classmates at the PMA. It seemed Reyes had known Carandang when he was a young lieutenant in Mindanao in the 1970s. I gathered Carandang was an anti-communist vigilante.

* * *

The Lobregats of Zamboanga City are using every possible trick against political neophyte Lepeng Wee, who's running for mayor against Maria Clara Lobregat, 83. Lobregat's son Celso is running for reelection in the city's lone congressional district.

One such tactic being used by the Lobregats is having their underlings file a case of alleged smuggling of prohibited drugs against Wee following the seizure of several drums of chemicals from Malaysia.

The chemicals don't have the ingredients for making shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride, according to findings by the PNP crime laboratory.

The drums of chemicals were not imported by Wee. His name was used by a Malaysian company that plans to set up a furniture factory inside the Zamboanga Free Trade Zone. The chemicals would have been used to make foam for furniture upholstery.

* * *

A good leader is measured by the way he punishes or praises his men. Reynaldo Wycoco, NBI chief, is a good leader if we go by this rule.

Wycoco praised in public two of his subordinates who, he said, were responsible in cracking the Dacer case—Sammy Ong, chief of the National Capital Region; and Marianito Panganiban, chief of the Field Operations Division.

Wycoco, an outsider who became an NBI chief, has earned the respect of his subordinates.

Man, boy, wounded in Sampaloc fire

TWO PERSONS were injured after an hour-long fire razed more than a dozen houses in Sampaloc, Manila yesterday morning.

SFO3 Ruben Zagala of the city fire department said Angelina Bataan, 30, and Reynaldo Gimasa, 13, suffered cuts and bruises after being struck by falling wooden beams and glass shards while trying to save their belongings.

The fire struck a residential area along España Boulevard, between J. Marzan and V.G. Cruz streets, around 1:30 p.m. It reached the fifth alarm until firemen put it under control half an hour later.

Witnesses told fire investigators they heard a loud explosion, and saw smoke billowing from the house of one Clarissa Florendo, 41, at 926 J. Marzan.

The flames spread quickly, firemen said, because the houses were very close and made up of light materials.

The amount of damages caused by the blaze is still being estimated at press time.

Jerome Aning

Robbers take P1M in QC

THE CENTRAL Police District (CPD) warned Holy Week vacationers to be extra careful in keeping their houses secured, after robbers took more than a million pesos worth of valuables from a house in New Manila in Quezon City on Thursday.

Edward T. Francisco, 29, of 2-B 10th St. Rolling Hills, Barangay Damayang Lagi, New Manila, told investigators that he lost several pieces of jewelry, a camera and other valuables worth P1.1 million, said PO2 Joseph Dino.

Francisco said he discovered the theft about 8:30 p.m. on Thursday when he arrived home from work. He said his front door and window had been forcibly opened. He said the house had been locked since 10:30 a.m. because his housemates were also at work.

Police said the robbers ransacked the master's bedroom. They also did not spare the other rooms in the house, police added.

Dino said the Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team members have lifted several fingerprints from the house and would match these with those of other criminals who already have a record with the CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit's theft and robbery section.

Philip Tubeza

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

MALAYA AT MALUSOG
NA PAMAYANAN

08 March 2001

BUREAU CIRCULAR
No. 01 s. 2001

TO: ALL IMPORTERS FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

SUBJECT: **Guidelines on the Temporary Ban on the Importation of Processed Meat Products from Cattle, Sheep and Goat, and other Food Ingredients Containing Substances Derived from these Animals**

In order to clarify the implementation of the Temporary Ban on European Meat and Meat Products under Memorandum Order No. 19 s. 2000 issued by the Department of Agriculture, the following guidelines for the importation of processed meat and meat products from Europe are hereby promulgated.

1. The processed meat products that shall not be permitted for importation and sale are products that may contain specified risk materials derived from animals (cattle, sheep and goat) that may be contaminated with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow disease" and are identified as follows:
   - →Canned meat containing meat/offals from cattle, sheep and goat such as corned beef and other meat preparations including frankfurters, liver paste, pate, goulash, soups and broths if one or more of its ingredients are derived from said animals.
   - →Other processed meat products that may or may not be stable at ambient conditions like sausages, pasta filled/stuffed with meat derived from cattle, sheep and goat.
   - →Food ingredients containing substances of bovine origin such as beef flavors, animal protein preparations or protein concentrates.
2. In order to verify if the imported meat products do not contain the specified risk materials from BSE affected animals, BFAD Clearance shall be required prior to the release of shipments from Ports of Entry by the Bureau of Customs for products covered under the H.S. Codes of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, June 2000, listed in the following table:

Table 1. H.S. Codes of Products under Alert

1601.0000	1602.4191	1602.9091
1602.1010	1602.4192	1602.9092
1602.1020	1602.4910	1902.2000
1602.2010	1602.4920	2103.9000
1602.2020	1602.5000	2104.1000
1602.4111	1602.9011	2106.1000

3. Importers seeking BFAD Clearance for shipments under the above specified H.S. Codes must submit appropriate documents such as bill of lading, packing list, product labels or declaration of ingredients from the manufacturer (if the ingredients are not declared on the product label). In order to avoid delays in processing of clearances, the required documents should be submitted before the arrival of the shipment.
4. The DA Memorandum identified thirteen member countries of the European Union covered by the temporary ban which are the countries where sources of imported meat have been accredited However, there are other countries which have been identified as possible sources of processed meat products and these are included in the BFAD watch list of European Countries identified below

Albania
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Macedonia
The Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Yugoslavia

5. Shipments with the prohibited processed meat products and food ingredients shall be returned to the country of origin or recommended for proper disposal at the expense of the importer.

These guidelines shall take effect immediately and shall be enforced until such time that the situation warrants the lifting of the temporary ban on meat products from European countries.

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined in the interest of public health and safety.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

MALAYA AT MALUSOG
NA PAMAYANAN

08 March 2001

BUREAU CIRCULAR
No. 02 s. 2001

TO: SUPERMARKETS, DUTY FREE SHOPS AND OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS

SUBJECT: **Advisory on Voluntary Recall of Processed Meat Products Imported from European Countries**

A temporary ban on the importation of live animals (i.e., cattle, sheep and goat) and their meat products and other feed ingredients derived from said animals from European countries was ordered by the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the light of the increase in cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow disease" in Europe through Memorandum Order No. 19 s. 2000 dated 29 November 2000. The ban has been implemented since December 2000.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs is monitoring the entry of processed meat products from Europe and based on the import data obtained from the Bureau of Customs, the processed meat products that have been imported from Europe for the Year 2000 included the following: ***corned beef, liver paste, luncheon meat, chopped ham, Danish ham, lamb curry, pasta with meat and other products simply identified as canned meat.***

All supermarkets, duty free shops and other retail outlets are hereby advised to voluntarily withdraw from their shelves all processed meat products from Europe if these contain meat/offals from cattle, sheep and goat. The ingredient declaration on product labels should be examined for the presence of beef, beef liver, and other substances derived from said animals. **Canned meat and other meat products with only pork or poultry as ingredients are not included in this recall advisory.**

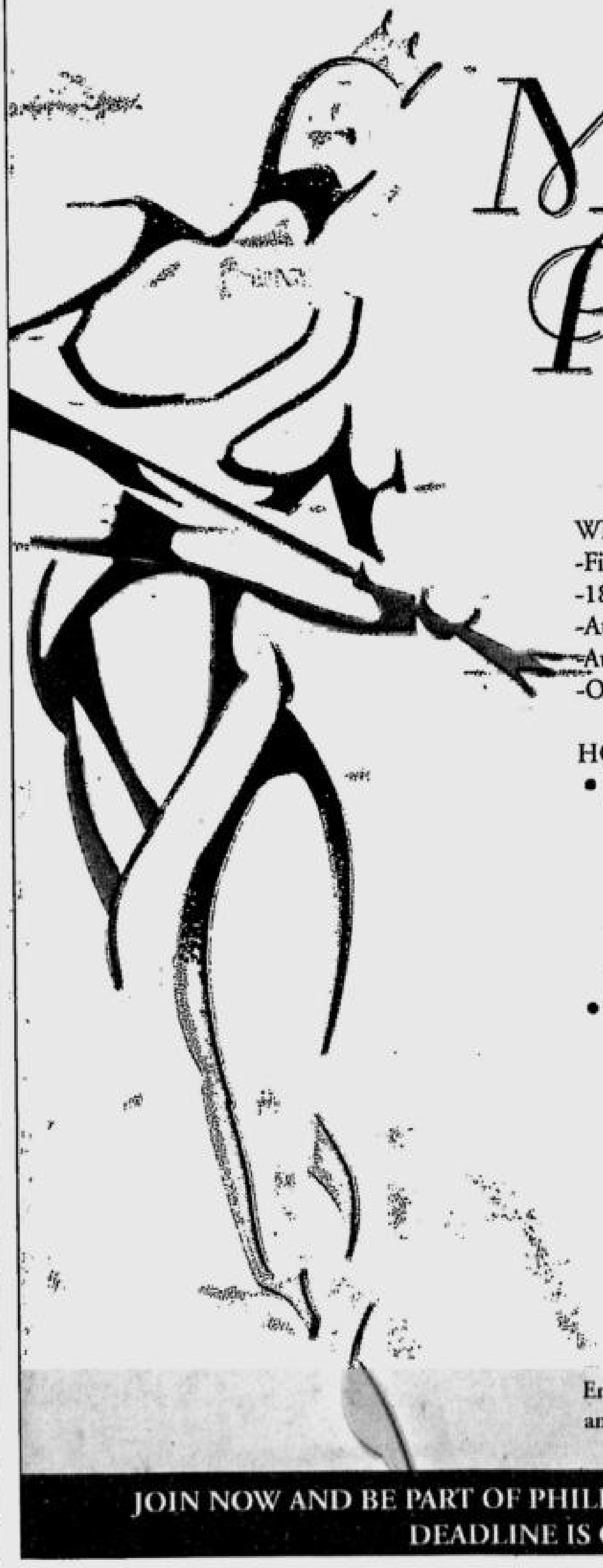
While the abovementioned meat products may not be confirmed to contain specified risk materials from BSE contaminated animals, the Department of Health is recommending their recall from retail outlets as a precautionary measure to ensure that the risk of exposure to BSE by consumption of European meat products is minimized. A copy of the Bureau Circular to Importers from European countries is attached for your information and guidance on the processed meat products that are not permitted for importation and sale.

Owners/Managers of all supermarkets, duty free shops and retail outlets are expected to prepare an inventory of withdrawn meat products to be submitted to BFAD as soon as possible and to identify the respective suppliers of said products, indicating their contact business address and telephone/fax numbers. The withdrawn products shall be kept in the possession of the respective supermarkets, duty free shops and retail outlets, for verification and appropriate instructions for disposal. The same should not be transferred to any other location for storage without prior written notice from the concerned retailer and approval by BFAD.

All are enjoined to cooperate in the interest of protecting human and animal health from BSE.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director

April 7 & 8, 2001 – Inquirer



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Boy, 6, held hostage by drunk neighbor

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy became the reluctant companion of Ronaldo Iludo, 25, who took him hostage Wednesday night in Quezon City after the man's wife left him.

Iludo, of 73 Mabilis St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, threatened to kill with a foot-long bolo the Grade I pupil, who is his neighbor, at the Pinyahan Elementary School playground.

Policemen were able to convince Iludo to surrender, said PO2 Ronald Zamora, of the Kamuning police station.

Police said Iludo had been distraught since his wife Roselle decided to leave him Wednesday night and took their 3-year-old son with her. Iludo's wife allegedly gave up on him because he beat her up whenever he was drunk.

Iludo allegedly resented it that his wife is the family's sole breadwinner. The wife works in a beerhouse and sometimes would not go home after work, the boy's mother told the Inquirer.

When Iludo heard his wife had finally left him yesterday morning, he became very depressed and tried to drown his misery with liquor, the boy's mother added.

But like in the past, Iludo became rowdy after he had been drinking and challenged to a fight those who passed by his house.

"He was shouting that he wanted his son back," the boy's mother said. "Then he said he was going to make an 'issue' out of somebody."

The 6-year-old boy was then on his way to school when Iludo chanced upon him around 11:45 a.m. yesterday, Zamora said.

Iludo grabbed the boy and dragged him toward the nearby school playground, Zamora added.

"I asked him to take me hostage instead of my son but he did not listen," the boy's mother said.

When she tried to get near her son, Iludo threatened to cut of the boy's hand.

Kamuning policemen arrived and convinced Iludo to surrender about 15 minutes later.

Mandaluyong man accused of raping two daughters

By Agnes E. Donato

A 33-YEAR-OLD father yesterday was accused of raping his two daughters, now aged 13 and 10, in Mandaluyong City.

PO3 Sonia Gaviana said multiple rape charges were filed against the man, who is a resident of Barangay Highway Hills.

The man's two daughters, accompanied by their mother, filed the complaint before the Mandaluyong police women's desk.

The 13-year-old girl told police that her father started molesting her as early as when she was only three years old. The 10-year-old said their father started raping her when she was eight years old.

PO3 Gaviana said the man would rape his daughters every time his wife went to work as a seamstress. The two victims are among three daughters of the couple's nine children.

The 13-year-old said that at first, her father would only use his finger to abuse her. But when she turned six, he started forcing himself upon her; she said.

He eventually got her pregnant last year. But she suffered a miscarriage after her father forced her to take an unidentified drug, she said.

It was only then that the 13-year-old told their mother about their ordeal. The mother, afraid that her family would be publicly humiliated, decided to forgive her husband when he asked to be given another chance.

But the suspect again abused, one of the girls last Tuesday, prompting the mother to seek police assistance and have her husband arrested.

It was only during the confrontation at the police headquarters that it was learned that the suspect had also been raping the younger girl.

Taytay cop shot dead in Antipolo City

By Agnes E. Donato

FOR allegedly having an affair with another man's wife, a Taytay policeman was shot dead in Antipolo City early yesterday morning.

Killed was PO3 Ricardo Serrano, 37, of Barangay Dalig-in Antipolo, according to the Antipolo police chief, Supt. Ronald Velicaria. Serrano died from three gunshot wounds in the left side of the body.

Serrano's companion, Peter Tabaya, 20, of the same address, sustained a gunshot wound on the left knee.

Both men were brought to the Antipolo District Hospital.

Police are searching for suspect Ronald de los Reyes and a companion, said to be a dismissed Antipolo policeman identified as Paul Natividad.

Initial investigation showed that the shooting occurred at about 3:45 a.m. in Tabaya's house where Serrano was sleeping over.

Serrano was awakened by De los Reyes' loud knocking on the door. De los Reyes was accompanied by Natividad.

De los Reyes accused Serrano of having an affair with De los Reyes' wife and asked Serrano to return his wife.

Serrano opened the door to talk to De los Reyes, but the latter shot him with a .38 revolver. The noise roused Tabaya, who tried to stop the suspects from getting away by hitting De los Reyes with a wall mirror.

De los Reyes shot Tabaya in the knee. Natividad took Serrano's service firearm before the two suspects fled.

Murder charges will be filed against the suspects as soon as they are caught.

3 drug suspects... (From page A21)

they reportedly stormed the La Loam hideout of the suspected drug pushers. Wounded were SPO1 Wilfredo D. Montecalvo, 34, and PO1 Marco Antonio Guevarra.

At about 4 p.m. Thursday, police received a tip that there was a drug session going on at Umali's house on Calavite Street.

An undercover policeman tried to buy drugs from Carandang and Chua but the suspects sensed the trap and ran back to Umali's two-story house.

The lawmen went after the suspects inside the house and engaged them in a firefight. One of the suspects reportedly lobbed a fragmentation grenade at the policemen and injured four of them.

Montecalvo was hit in the neck while Guevarra was hit in the left foot. Both were able to withdraw from the suspects' house and asked for police assistance.

The two wounded policemen were taken to the Chinese General Hospital.

But officers Alonzo and Red were not as lucky. Alonzo suffered multiple gunshot and shrapnel wounds while Red's foot was mutilated in the blast.

The suspects took the wounded policemen to Umali's room on the first floor and held them hostage. The two policemen bled to death.

Newly appointed CPD director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor arrived later with members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team and prevented the suspects from escaping.

But three civilians, including an eight-month pregnant woman, were trapped in the suspects' apartment.

At about 7:30 p.m., the suspects shouted to the lawmen that Red and Alonzo were dead. But they refused to surrender, fearing the policemen would kill them.

They finally surrendered at about 11:45 p.m. when Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo arrived and convinced the suspects they would not be harmed.

Authorities recovered from the scene a mini Uzi, eight magazines of cal. 45 bullets, spent shells and P20,000 in different denominations.

Police also seized the suspects' Nissan Sentra (WGS-574) which contained an M-16 rifle and drug paraphernalia.

Laguna Lakers player accused of mauling model

A BASKETBALL player from the Metropolitan Basketball Association was accused of mauling a fashion model in a trendy Makati nightspot on Thursday.

Makati police identified the suspect as Christopher Daniel Clay, 28, a member of the Laguna Lakers basketball team.

The victim was identified as Maribelle Lorena Labay, 25, a part-time fashion model and a resident of Geneva Street, Northwest BF, Parañaque City.

Initial investigation conducted by SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman showed that Labay accused Clay of roughing her up in the Where Else? Disco at the Hotel Intercontinental around 2 a.m. Thursday.

Though Labay did not provide police with the complete details of the incident, police said it could have been a lover's quarrel between her and Clay.

After reporting the incident, Labay failed to return to the Makati police headquarters to file charges, leading police to theorize that the case could have been settled peacefully between Labay and Clay.

Alcuin Papa

Trader gets death... (From page A21)

the clock for 10 days.

As soon as police had gathered enough evidence against Ching, they conducted a buy-bust operation and caught the suspect red-handed.

Police secured a search warrant, proceeded to Ching's house and seized a weighing scale and a box that contained shabu in 16 transparent plastic bags.

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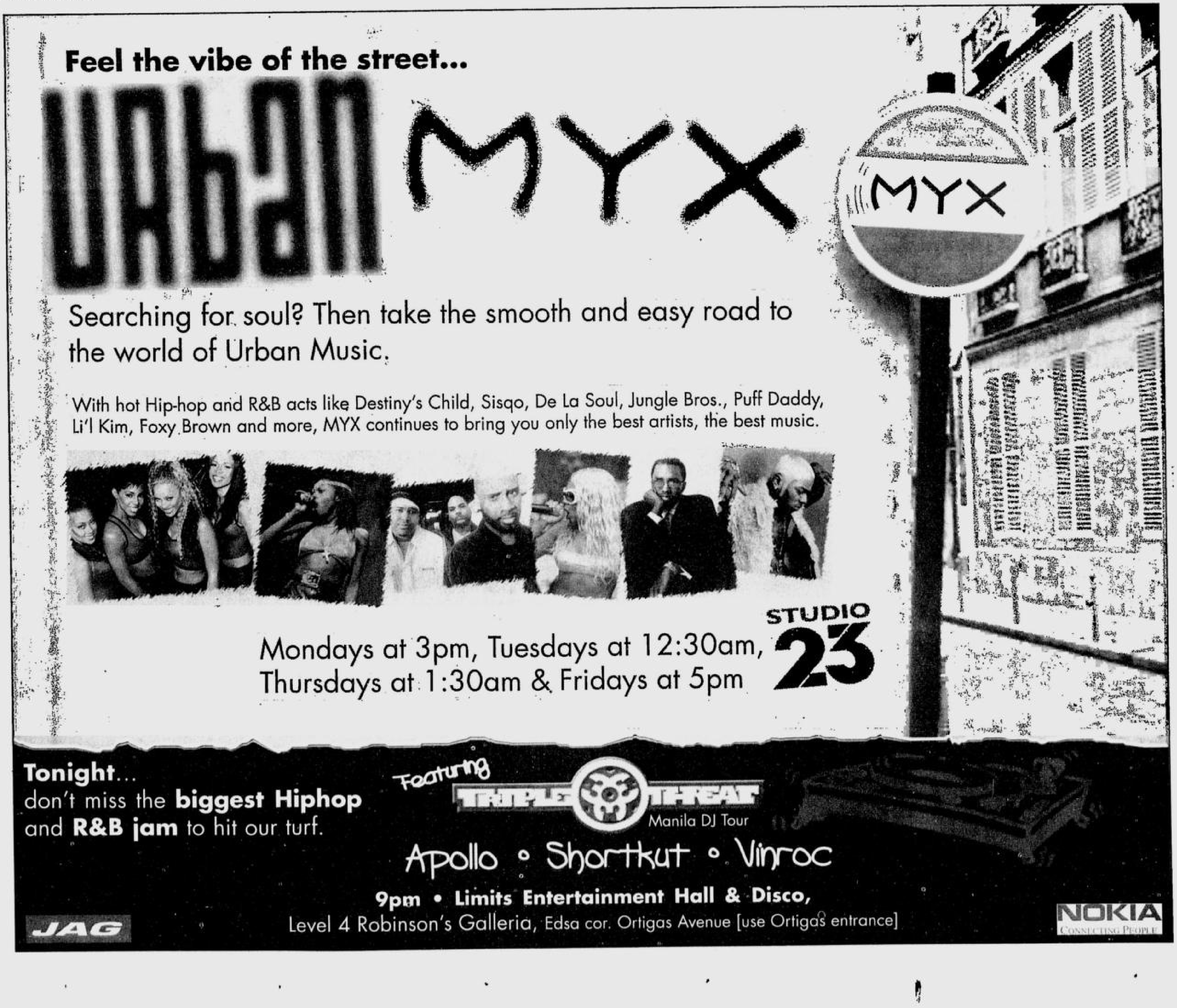
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JAG NOKIA CONNECTING PEOPLE

5 dead in 3 accidents in Valenzuela, Bulacan

By Christian V. Esguerra

FIVE people were killed while 22 others were injured in three road accidents in Valenzuela City and in nearby Bulacan province.

Authorities identified the fatalities as Alfredo Balboa of Angeles City, Pampanga; Angelino Mendoza of San Dionisio, Parañaque; Wenceslao Leaño of Meycauayan, Bulacan; and two unidentified women.

In Balagtas, Bulacan, Mendoza's Isuzu Elf van (WPZ-821) collided with two other vehicles at kilometer 32 of the North Luzon Expressway at 1:45 a.m. yesterday, said Manny Prades of the Philippine National Construction Corp.

In Valenzuela, Leaño's owner-type jeep (NFF-973) also crossed over to the other side of the Gen. T. de Leon portion of the expressway, and rammed into a Kia Pregio van (WNP-102) driven by Mario Reginoso at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, police said.

The impact of the collision threw Leaño five meters from his vehicle which had overturned, police said.

At about 5 a.m. yesterday in Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela, four vehicles figured in another road accident which left 14 people injured.

The victims were identified as Bienvenido Pacheca, Ernesto Yumang, Salvador and Gregoria Tambor, Dionisio Gutierrez;

Cecilia San Jose, Herminia Teodoro, Luis and Edita Peña, Rodel and Melva Ygot, and their children Mary Joyce, 5, Rommel, 10, and Roel, 15.

The victims are being treated at the Santo Tomas University Hospital in Manila.

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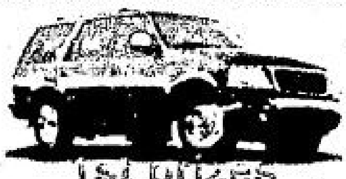

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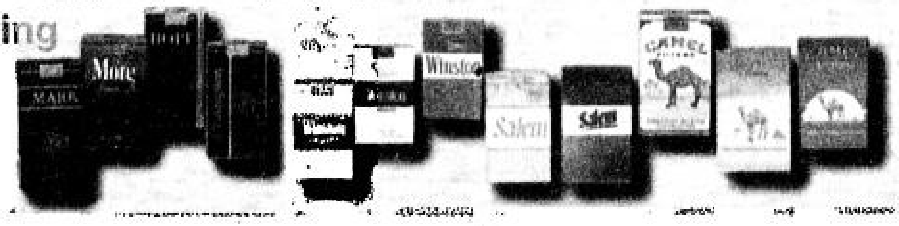
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2 men kill selves

TWO suicides were reported in the cities of Las Piñas and Makati on Thursday.

One involved a seaman who had quarreled with his wife before he took his life. The other was a 60-year-old man who killed himself reportedly so he would not be a burden to his family.

Sonny Bongais, 36, of Barangay Rizal in Makati City, had argued with his wife Airren after she told him a joke that he, however, did not take as a joke, police said.

Bongais withdrew to his room after the argument. But at 9:05 p.m. Thursday, his wife heard a gunshot from inside Bongais' locked room, the wife told police.

The wife said they broke down the door and found Bongais slumped on the floor with a gunshot wound in the head.

Makati police are still investigating the case. Bongais' relatives have not surrendered to police the gun he used to kill himself.

In Las Piñas City also on Thursday, Arsenio de Leon, 60, hanged himself from the ceiling of his neighbor Eduardo Ocampo's house after saying he did not want to be a burden to his family.

Ocampo found De Leon, of Balagtas Street in Pamplona, Las Piñas City, at 11:50 p.m. Thursday.

Ocampo told police De Leon had gone to his house to chat. De Leon revealed that he was thinking of killing himself because he did not want to be a burden to his family.

Ocampo said he initially ignored De Leon's threat to take his life and left him alone for a while. But when he returned to his house, he saw De Leon hanging by a length of electrical wire from the ceiling. *Alcuin Papa*

Mandaluyong sends out more cops

THE MANDALUYONG police has deployed 34 more men to beef up security in the city's malls, banks and other commercial establishments.

Supt. Jose Gentiles, Mandaluyong police chief, said the new group was part of the 1,000-men contingent deployed by the Philippine National Police in Metro Manila.

Gentiles said the 34 rookie policemen would augment the policemen manning identified crime-prone areas in the city.

He noted, however, that the reported rising crime rate in the city was more perceived than actually experienced.

"People don't feel safe because they see petty crimes happening in the streets," he said. "This is what we are hoping to arrest by increasing police visibility."

He observed that many petty crimes remain unsolved because the victims do not report them to the police.

Agnes E. Donato

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
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7	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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8	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	JOAN OF ARC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
11	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER (RI)
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
3	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2 THE GIFT In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 GLADIATOR THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 SECRET OF THE ANDES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 CHOCOLAT In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 SAVE THE LAST DANCE In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 WEDDING PLANNER In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1 MALENA In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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2 THE GIFT In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SAVE THE LAST DANCE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 WEDDING PLANNER In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 CHOCOLAT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) SAVE THE LAST DANCE
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3 (DTS) PERFECT STORM
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5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE REPLACEMENT
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4
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5 KRISTO

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2 RESERVE
3 THEY NEST
4 UHAW SA INIT
5 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6 GLADIATOR
7 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
8 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Uniwide Metromall
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2 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
3 THE REPLACEMENT
4 THE ELIMINATOR
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Uniwide Coastal Mall
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3 MAY GATAS PA SA LABI
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2 OOOPS. TEKA LANG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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1 RESERVE
2 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...

Spring
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1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
A KRISTO

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1
3

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) GLADIATOR
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS) THE GIFT
8 (SDDS) THEY NEST
9 (DOLBY) SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS) THEY NEST
5 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
6 (DOLBY) DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS) GLADIATOR
8 KRISTO
9 UHAW SA INIT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) GLADIATOR
2 RESERVE
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS) DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
6 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
7 (DOLBY) THEY NEST
8 OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3 (DTS) OOOPS. TEKA LANG
4 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 (SDDS) GLADIATOR
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DOLBY) RESERVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
Lords BODY TO BODY
Jennet BABAENG PUTIK

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KRISTO
2 GLADIATOR
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 WEDDING PLANNER

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 THEY NEST
2 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3 REVELATION
4 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 TOTAL AIKIDO
4 GLADIATOR
5 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
6 REVELATION

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3 REVELATION

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 (DTS) GLADIATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS) QUILLS
3 (DOLBY) THE GIFT
4 GLADIATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GLADIATOR
2 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3 UHAW SA INIT
4 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE GIFT
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS) GLADIATOR
4 TOTAL AIKIDO
5 UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 GLADIATOR
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 GLADIATOR
2 QUILLS
3 UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 WOMAN ON TOP
2 PANABLA
3 UHAW SA INIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 GLADIATOR
3 SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 OOOPS TEKA LANG
2 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3 RESERVE
4 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808
1 (DTS) BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS) TANGING YAMAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 UHAW SA INIT
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 TOTAL AIKIDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 THE BAIT
4 WEDDING PLANNER

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 RESERVE
2 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3 OOOPS. TEKA LANG
4 UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) GLADIATOR
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 ANAK
4 (DTS EX) SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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BACOLOD (034)441-0453
① WEDDING PLANNER
② SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
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⑤ TOO MUCH FLESH
⑥ PURPLE STORM

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	GLADIATOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
MIRAMAR	TUHOG / FIRST DESIRE
ODEON	GLADIATOR
ODEON-2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
ROBEN	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	SEDUCER
REMAR-2	UHAW SA INIT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79/633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SECRET OF THE ANDES
CINEMA-2	MS CONGENIALITY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE GIFT
CINEMA-2	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-5	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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CHOCOLAT
(PG-13 RT-2:05)
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Johnny Depp
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April 7 - Saturday
4:20 PM - Chocolat
6:50 PM - Closed (WRock / LRP Foundation)
9:20 PM - Chocolat
11:40 PM - Chocolat

Louie's THX Cinema will be closed from April 9-13, 2001 in observance of the coming Holy Week
Sweet November
Keanu Reeves / Charlize Theron
opens Saturday April 14, 2001

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

Stars in the running

BY LEAH SALTERIO
(First of two parts)

THE OUSTER of former President Joseph Estrada, also a former movie actor, has not deterred show biz stars from pursuing their own political ambitions and running in the May 14 elections.

Many celebrity candidates are political first timers. Despite Erap, most of them are believed to have a fighting chance. Many of their opponents are said to be intimidated by the presence of the show biz stars.

Some celebrities aligned themselves with political parties, while others opted to bankroll their own campaign and do it alone, like broadcaster Noli de Castro and actress-producer Armida Siguion-Reyna.

In Metro Manila, here are some of them and their plans.

REVILLA

SALVADOR

Bong Revilla Jr.
- He is running for a second term as governor of Cavite province, under the Lakas-NUCD banner.
- His vision is to make Cavite the country's premiere province, with sustainable economic prosperity and political stability by the year 2020.
- He proposes an eight-point program of action covering rational land use, sustainable agricultural productivity, continuing economic development, infrastructure support, social development, peace and order, environmental management, ecotourism and historical-cultural revolution.'
- He offers PEACE — for Peace and Order, Effective Governance, Awareness/Transparency, Citizen's Participation and Economic Programs for Cavite.

FERNANDEZ

AVANZADO

Rudy Fernandez
- A first-timer in politics, he is running for mayor of Quezon City as a guest candidate of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP).
- He envisions a prosperous and self-reliant community through the city government's effective partnership with barangays and people's organizations.
- He says he will try to solve Quezon City's squatter problem by supporting on-site development and preventing more squatters from getting into the city.
- He says his governance will be anchored on the substantive participation of Quezon City citizens in key community concerns.
- "My vision for the succeeding generations is to leave them a community that is economically and socially progressive," he says. "In my program of government, this translates into the fostering of sustained business and economic development."
- He vows to provide a responsive and honest government, efficient waste management, a modern and well-planned infrastructure program and orderly and peaceful communities.
- His social development concerns are a revitalized public health care system, quality education and active youth development program, and support for socialized housing program.

"I believe my chances haven't changed," he says. "The voters of Quezon City are broad-minded. I think they would base their choices on the candidate's individual capacity to serve and not on his or her professional background."

MERCADO

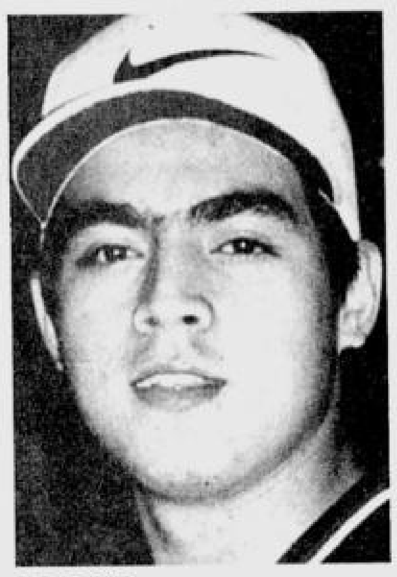
Lani Mercado
- The wife of the Cavite governor, she is running for mayor of Bacoor, Cavite.
- Her slogan is "Save Bacoor because Bacoor deserves LANI."
- The L in LANI stands for *Linis* (Cleanliness). "I've been involved in the Clean and Green program of Bong for the past three years," she says. "We established a provincial technical committee on solid waste management.

"We have chosen a technology for the province which is expected to answer the garbage problem of the province. Eventually, we will close the Molino dumpsite.

"Since we are a coastal town, we also put up the Bantay-Dagat program to intensify the close watch on illegal fishing."
- A is for *Aral* (Education). She wants to put up additional public schools with more teachers and day-care programs.
- N is for Nutrition. She wants additional budget for medicine, medical services and health centers.

"The governor promised that if I win, we would put up a municipal hospital. We opened a provincial hospital but Bacoor itself has no municipal hospital."
- I is for Infrastructure. "(Bacoor is) the gateway to the province so eventually, we have to show our neighbors that we are not left behind when it comes to the infrastructure programs."

IGNACIO


MORENO

Phillip Salvador
- Winner of several acting awards, he is running for vice mayor of Mandaluyong City under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) and is also a guest candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).
- Wants to improve the lives of the people of Mandaluyong.

"That was what convinced me to run," he says. "You need only a day to see the hardships that Mandaluyong residents are going through."
- Launched his socio-civic programs — Kaibigan Ko si Ipe and Ka-Ipe Movement — which aim to extend help to Mandaluyong residents.

Arnel Ignacio
- A comedian, he is running for councilor of the 4th District of Quezon City.
- His mission is to help members of his community realize their full potential and become pro-active in solving their problems.
- His foremost concern is for most of the poor residents of the 4th District to have a regular source of income and access to adequate health care.
- He will push for the strict segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

Dingdong Avanzado
- The singer is seeking a second term as councilor of the 3rd District of Quezon City.
- He vows to continue his mission of bringing empowerment to the barangay and the youth.
- He will also push for more citywide projects to reach out to more poor residents of Quezon City.

"I am neither overconfident nor complacent," he says. "There are a lot of things in the political system that should be changed. We need new blood. We need idealistic and aggressive politicians."

Isko Moreno (real name Francisco Dumagoso)
- The former member of "That's Entertainment" is seeking reelection as councilor of the 1st District of Manila.
- He vows to continue his free consultation and medical mission, declogging of drainage, scholarship programs for poor youth, livelihood programs, summer employment program for students.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Stars gather for Armida rally in Makati

CELEBRITIES from television and the movies gather today for the proclamation rally of Armida Siguion-Reyna at the Philippine Racing Commission (PRC) basketball court in Carmona, Makati City.

Siguion-Reyna is running for a congressional seat in the 1st district of Makati under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP). She is also being supported by the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

The proclamation rally starts at 7 p.m. after a 2 p.m. motorcade that will travel around the 20 barangays of District 1.

Armida will announce her platform of government after consultations with leaders and constituents of her district.

Among the stars who will grace the occasion are Nida Blanca, Celia Rodriguez, Ricky Davao, Jackie Lou Blanco, Vic Sotto, Cherie Gil, Michael de Mesa, Eric and Jeffrey Quizon, Francis Magalona, Joyce Jimenez, Ara Mina, Ciarra Sotto, Gabby and Ryan Eigenmann, Eric Fructuoso, Wendell Ramos, Antonio Aquitania, Klaudia Koronel, Ana Capri, Janna Victoria and the Sex Bombs.

Also joining Armida are members of her "Aawitan Kita" family led by Richard Reynoso, Francis Batomalaque, Robert Natividad, Michael Laygo, Diomedes Maturan, Pinky Marquez, and Isabel Granada.

The rally will be emceed by Ruby Rodriguez and Menggie Cobarrubias.

Reyes launches website

FORMER Press Secretary Rod Reyes is running his political campaign through the information highway. He has launched his website, *rodreyes.com*, to reach more registered voters, particularly the young ones, in Parañaque City.

Reyes, who is making his first attempt in politics as an independent congressional candidate, said his website "will allow young people to know more about me and my program for Parañaque and for our country."

His website, developed by a nephew in Virginia, USA, contains information about his career as a journalist, diplomat and Cabinet member of two previous administrations. It will highlight his campaign activities and schedule until the May 14 elections.

Reyes, a former newsman and de facto ambassador to Taiwan, said: "The world is getting smaller because of computerization. I am happy that more and more Filipino youth are interested in computer science."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 7, 2001
5th Week of Lent

1st Reading: *Ezk 37:21-28*
Gospel: *Jn11:45-57*

Many of the Jews who had come with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw what he did; but some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called the Sanhedrin Council.

They said, "What are we to do? For this man keeps on giving miraculous signs. If we let him go on like this, all the people will believe in him and, as a result of this, the Romans will come and sweep away our Holy Place and our nation."

Then one of them, Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all nor do you see clearly what you need. It is better to have one man die for the people than to let the whole nation be destroyed."

In saying this Caiaphas did not speak for himself, but being High Priest that year, he foretold as a prophet that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the scattered children of God. So, from that day on, they were determined to kill him.

Because of this, Jesus no longer moved about freely among the Jews. He withdrew instead to the country near the wilderness and stayed with his disciples in a town called Ephraim.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand and people from everywhere were coming to Jerusalem to purify themselves before the Passover. They looked for Jesus and as they stood in the Temple, they talked with one another, "What do you think? Will he come to the festival?" Meanwhile the chief priests and the elders had given orders that anyone who knew where he was should let them know so that they could arrest him.

Commentary:

After a very short respite at the end of the Gospel yesterday, the tension now escalates, which will lead to the drama of the Sacred Triduum next week. Our life in the Lord is like that—ups and downs, acceptance and rejection, life and death. It is just so! The Fourth Evangelist is careful to point out that God can use anyone, even with malicious intent, to fulfill his ultimate design: one family of God acclaiming him as Lord of their lives. We cannot, therefore, limit God's actions only in the righteous. After all, God is the Lord of our personal, world and cosmic stories.

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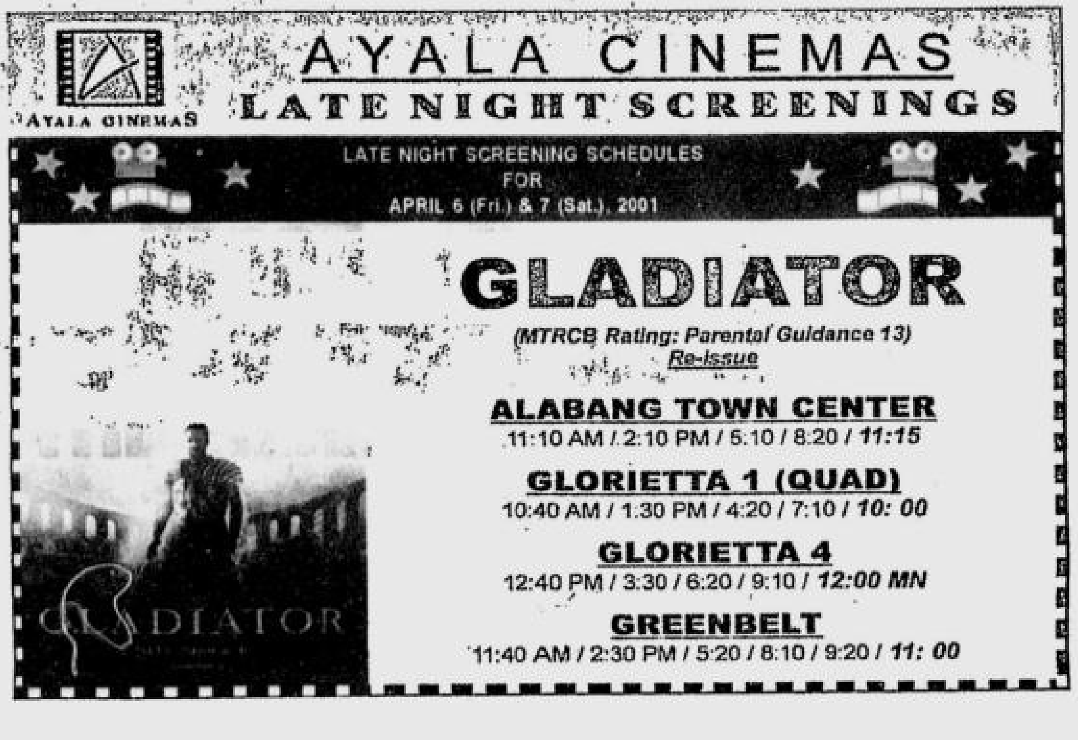
AYALA CINEMAS
LATE NIGHT SCREENINGS
LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR APRIL 6 (Fri.) & 7 (Sat.), 2001
GLADIATOR
(MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13)
Re-Issue
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
11:10 AM / 2:10 PM / 5:10 / 8:20 / 11:15
GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
10:40 AM / 1:30 PM / 4:20 / 7:10 / 10: 00
GLORIETTA 4
12:40 PM / 3:30 / 6:20 / 9:10 / 12:00 MN
GREENBELT
11:40 AM / 2:30 PM / 5:20 / 8:10 / 9:20 / 11: 00

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CHOCOLAT - P 13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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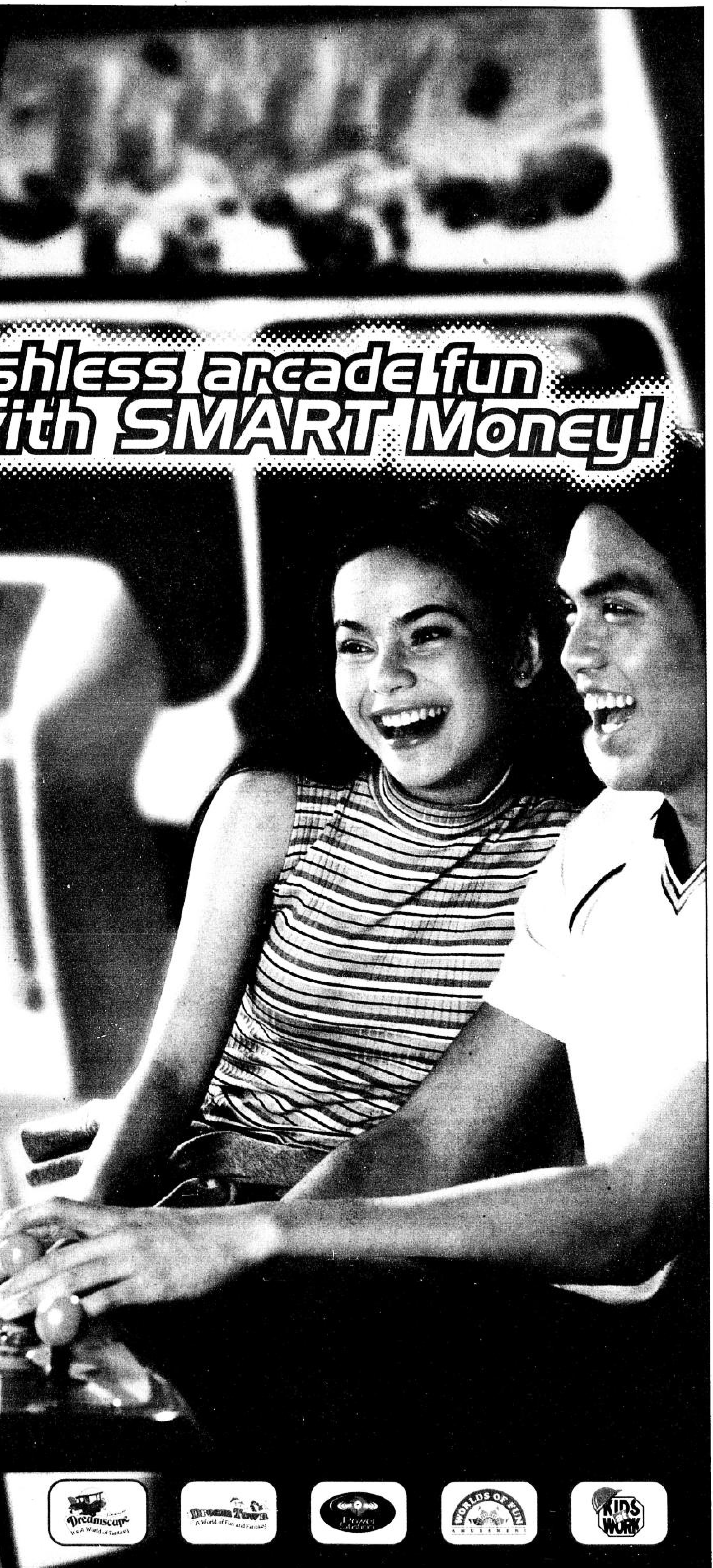

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ◼ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Equitable turns down buy-in offers

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

EQUITABLE PCI Bank yesterday said existing shareholders have committed to infuse between P5 billion and P10 billion in fresh capital into the bank within the second quarter of the year after the board of directors had rejected offers of three potential investors.

Equitable PCI president Wilfrido Vergara said the Go family as well as state pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System have committed to help increase the bank's capitalization to boost the public's confidence.

"The board members, in a special board meeting Thursday night, said they might as well undertake the capital infusion themselves if it was only a question of confidence," the bank president said.

Reports that Equitable PCI had rejected the offers brought down its share price in the stock market by P2.50 to P49.50 per share.

Vergara, however, said the rejection of the offers should not be used anew to speculate against the bank's financial health. He stressed the bank has a capital-adequacy ratio of 14 percent based on the new standard for risk rating.

He said the bank intends to recover three-fourths of the withdrawals it had lost within the year. The industry estimates that Equitable PCI had lost between P60 billion and P80 billion from late last year to early this year after it was dragged into the "Juetengate" scandal.

Vergara said the board had evaluated the bids based on nine criteria—pricing, payment terms, representation and warranties, timing, strategic complementation, market perception, reputation, financial standing, and acceptance by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Sources said JG Summit Corp., US-based venture firm Newbridge Capital Inc. and Taiwanese giant Fubon Group submitted their offers last Monday, April 2, to acquire a substantial stake in the bank.

Bank director Ricardo Leong, an in-law of John Gokongwei, who was supposed to lead a consortium of Malaysian investors, reportedly failed to submit a bid.

Edilberto Javier, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of Equitable PCI, admitted that pricing was one of the contentious items in evaluating the bids and eventually led the board to reject the proposals.

One offer, Javier said, was actually reasonable but the party wanted to buy a 51-percent stake, which was more than the 35-percent equity the bank was willing to sell.

Sources said this offer came from the Gokongwei family which controls JG Summit. The Gokongweis used to own about 30 percent of PCI Bank prior to its merger with Equitable in May 1999.

Javier explained that the bank would ask existing shareholders first to put up the capital. Any shortfall, he said, could be tapped from the so-called tier two capital, a quasi-debt fund raising scheme recently approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

He said fund managers including World Bank affiliate International Finance Corp. earlier expressed interest "to piggyback" with any new shareholder and invest a small amount into the bank.

Javier said groups like the IFC could come in after the shareholders have infused new capital.

He said the bank's book value stood at P43.59 per share as of end-December last year. The ideal price for the bank's shares would be book value times a multiplier of 1.2 to 1.7.

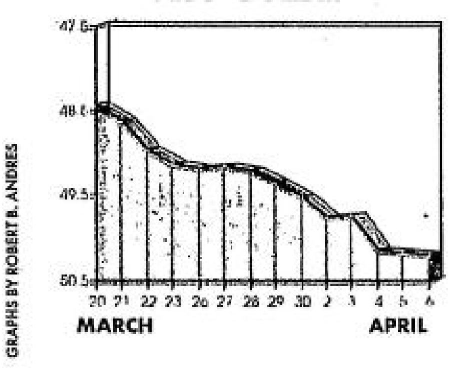
But the bids, Javier said, were based on an adjusted book value that was significantly lower than the bank's valuation.

Equitable PCI was supposed to sell about 350 million shares equivalent to a 35-percent stake. Vergara said the block is comprised of 273 million unissued shares and 77.5 million shares held by EBC Investment Inc.

The Go family owns about 30 percent of Equitable PCI. SSS accounts for 25 percent; GSIS, 12 percent, and the Romualdez family, 7 percent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 50.20 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
April 6, 2001

¥ 124.78 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 124.78 as of 5 p.m., April 6, 2001

GOLD:$258.20/258.70

per ounce Hong Kong,
April 6, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher

STOCKS posted gains yesterday, ahead of the holiday-shortened Easter week, with the market supported by the run-up in the Dow Jones on Thursday, traders said.

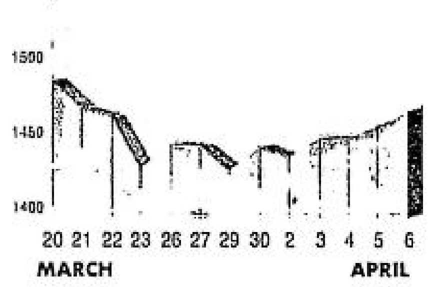
However, they added that the main index finished off its high as some investors chose to cash in gains in blue chips.

The main index rose 10.46 points, or 0.72 percent, to finish at 1,471.13 points, off an intra-day high of 1,485.18.

Turnover improved with trades worth P712.84 million, up from P588.86

STOCKS/ B2

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SM to put up shopping mall on San Lazaro lot

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

RETAIL giant SM Prime Holdings Inc. has forged a deal to buy a real estate holding unit of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. in order to obtain a four-hectare property within the San Lazaro racetrack for a new shopping mall complex.

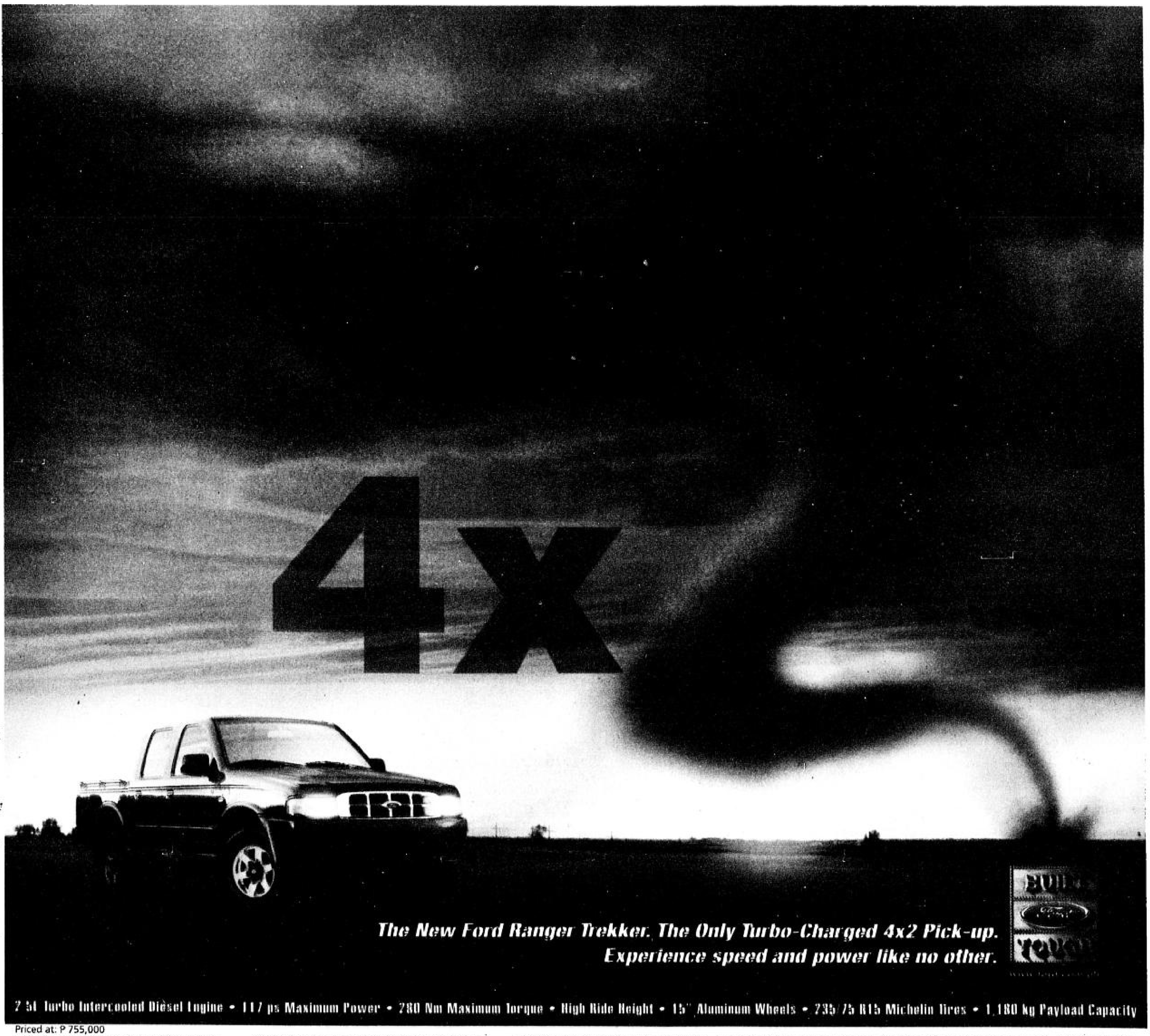
In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, MJCI corporate secretary Ferdinand Domingo said the company's board of directors has agreed to grant SM Prime a call option or the right to purchase on a staggered basis the shares of San Lazaro Holdings Corp.

SM Prime will have three years to buy San Lazaro Holdings, which holds the four-hectare property that retail tycoon Henry Sy's SM group wanted to add to its landbank holdings. No valuation for the property was given.

"The development of the four-hectare property into a shopping mall will pave the way for the development of the remaining properties in Sta. Cruz, Manila," Domingo said.

This development is seen as a win-win deal for both SM Prime and MJCI. SM Prime, whose aggressive mall expansion program all over the country is fast depleting its landbank supply for future developments, is in need of strategically located land acquisitions. MJCI, on

SM/ B2



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Misery robs company

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT seems only yesterday, but it was actually the other day, when reports came out that stock markets all over the world did not jump for joy, surprisingly, even when "plunder" and other cases were already filed against the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Actually, stock markets worldwide plunged as a reaction to the sharp downturn of the US stock market. I think this cute administration of Gloriaetta is lucky. Wrist Band did not have the presence of mind, if any, to use the market bloodbath to his advantage.

Look, he could have said that the markets turned bad, because it was a worldwide reaction to the filing of those cases against him. Of course, nobody would believe him, except perhaps those 11 million people who, in 1998, actually voted for him.

* * *

FOR almost a year now, the US market has been sharply downturning already. Why markets worldwide reacted only the other day, apparently was due to sympathy. Asian markets symphatized by having themselves routed also.

Don't look now but, as a result, the peso is misbehaving again. Today, the peso is doing at close to P50 per dollar. Misery, as they say, even in such things such as stocks and currencies, really loves company.

Today's peso rate, moreover, is worse than the rate way back when Gloriaetta was still the enemy of Sen. and/or Education Secretary Raul Roco. At that time, Roco loved to blame the peso depreciation on both Wrist Band and—I am not kidding—Gloriaetta.

Now I wonder where Roco is looking to search for the blame for the return of the unruly peso. Being "effectively resigned," Wrist Band is even likely soon to become a jailbird. As for Gloriaetta, well, she is now the good senator's and/or secretary's boss.

* * *

SADLY for this cute administration of Gloriaetta, the peso is turning delinquent, and the stock market is on a starvation diet—all during its watch! To think, those scaremongers claimed that all we had to do was to send the Wrist Band administration home.

What can we do now, siopao? We just cannot tell the scaremongers to eat their words. They should get beef from England. Besides, they are now part of this cute administration or are running for all sorts of public positions such as national heroes.

In truth, nevertheless, we can do nothing much regarding the peso's misery. Such is the nature of currencies in a free market system. You know, because stocks take a bath there at the other side of the globe, we must expect to be the ones to get clean here.

* * *

ANYWAY, stocks in the US are down by about 60 percent for the year so far. Those in Europe are luckier, because they are down by only 18 percent. Here in Asia, the market in Japan is down by 15 percent, and those in Asean are down by 20 percent.

Do I have good news for you! Ours is down by only 3 percent. The bad news is, such a figure does not mean we are better off than other countries in the region. It only goes to show how bad the market already is, it just cannot get worse anymore.

And that was all thanks to the stupid policies of our dearly beloved government. The cost of trading stocks here is not exactly to die for. Taxation, for one, has something to do with it. And I hope the SEC is happy now that it has virtually killed the market.

The SEC, as you know, has new rules on what and what not brokers can do. Which is, actually, not a lot. So what do the brokers do? They go to New York via the Internet. Because of the downturn, stocks there are getting cheap. Ours are simply rotting.

* * *

BUT is it true that Deogracias Vistan, who is a well known figure in banking, withdrew his nomination to the boards of United Coconut Planters Bank and even San Miguel Corp.? Word is going around banking that he did. And you can only wonder why.

Vistan is supposed to be the leader of the team of political hangers-on, *este*, "government nominees" *pala*, who are moving heaven and earth, plus the judicial system, to take over both the bank and San Miguel from Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Now don't you be misled by that. Although he is part of the raiding team, Vistan is a decent man. That's probably why, if the reports are true, he withdrew his nomination. Whether he likes it or not, the issue is taking on some political colors. Very dark colors!

* * *

FOR how else do you look at the recent claim of this cute administration about the latest acquisition of San Miguel? As you know, the company is getting back its ownership of the local Coca Cola franchise. It is also buying Purefoods from the Ayala group.

Without much ado, thank you, a group in this cute administration shouted, "wolf." Nobody even knows who is behind the group. They are just saying, in effect, that San Miguel "misuses" the money which is supposed to belong to . . . well, San Miguel itself!

So even before San Miguel can do that, this cute administration should better take control of the biggest private business in the country. All together now, "hoorah!" Misuse? Buying two highly profitable, well-run companies—that's "misuse?"

Coca Cola only owns the soft drinks market here, its closest competitor being somewhere in the vicinity of dirt in its nails. As for Purefoods, it is also the market leader in its business. Purefoods has such a hold in the market, it's the only one making money.

* * *

IF San Miguel is only wasting money by acquiring those two beauties, how come the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System are asking to finance the acquisition? Do you mean, boss, the SSS and the GSIS are stupid?

It so happens that both the SSS and the GSIS have seats in San Miguel. The two institutions used your and my money to acquire shares in San Miguel. They should only know why they are salivating at the acquisition. They are offering the financing.

History shows that it's the other way around. When the government takes over the business, bad things happen to it. Take a look at UCPB. Before the government takeover, it was the bank with the biggest capital in the land. Now it has the biggest headache.

Under the government, the bank became so good in lending to shaky companies, it is now saddled with huge bad debts. As if to double its misery, for financing those lendings, the bank itself borrowed short-term money. It's like robbing the company.

P2.5-B INFUSION

PBCom completes capital build-up

By Doris C. Dumlao

GEARING up for stiffer competition in the banking system, Binondo-based Philippine Bank of Communications has completed a P2.6-billion capital build-up plan to raise its paid-up capital to P7.3 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the bank also announced that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. have approved its acquisition of 100 percent of Consumer Savings Bank, the thrift bank unit of food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp., for P511.5 million.

Half of the P2.6-billion increase in capital sought by PBCom has already been infused by its major shareholders last year while the balance was remitted last March 30 or ahead of the April 27 deadline for its stock rights offering.

The bank said it was now ready to complete the merger with Consumer Savings pursuant to the terms specified by the banking regulators.

RFM has long been trying to dispose of its stake in the thrift bank as part of overall efforts to trim its exposure in non-core businesses. Consumer Savings has a niche in countryside loans to small and medium enterprises.

On the part of PBCom, the acquisition of the thrift bank is part of a plan to expand its core banking business after giving up its universal banking license. PBCom shareholders provided financial muscle to the lender after it was hit by a slight bank run when it downgraded its banking status last year.

The amendment to give up PBCom's universal banking status was in line with its operation as a pure commercial bank as the bank has never used its universal banking license not has any subsidiary engaged in real estate and investment banking.

The major owners of PBCom, which has a strong niche in the Chinese-Filipino community, are the Luy family of International Copra Export Corp., Ralph Nubla and the Chung family of La Suerte cigar and cigarette factory.

Asian stock marts rally on back of Wall Street, Nasdaq advance

HONG KONG—Asian stocks showed some sizable early gains yesterday in response to Wall Street's advance, but traders said it was too soon to say whether the rally had much staying power and prices drifted lower in the afternoon.

Sentiment was upbeat but cautious, with analysts reminding that the global economic outlook remains cloudy and warning markets could remain weak.

"People just got sick of selling," said Song Seng Wun, a regional economist for G.K. Goh Research in Singapore.

"We don't think, frankly, that this present happy period will last," Song said. "We're looking for the market to be bottoming out. We're not sure if it's at the bottom or near the bottom."

In Tokyo, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average was up by 0.5 percent at 13,453.49 in the afternoon.

Blue chips were up by 3.7 percent in Hong Kong and 3.4 percent in Seoul, after being up by more than 4 percent in the morning on both markets.

Australian shares has risen 0.6 percent by the afternoon, with traders reluctant to push prices too high—just as they had showed restraint in selling when New York stocks suffered some major recent declines.

"We've got a reasonably responsible market which is not in the mood to react too violently to what's happening in the states," said Andrew Sekely, equities manager at Intersuisse in Sydney. "Until a clear trend is shown on Wall Street, that rise is what you'd be expecting."

But investors were mostly buying, following the rally on Wall Street that pushed the Dow Jones industrial average up by 4.2 percent and the Nasdaq composite index up by 8.9 percent on Thursday. New York investors were encouraged by positive corporate earnings news—something they hadn't been seeing much of in a while.

The big rise by the Nasdaq helped lift prices around Asia for many high-tech companies that have taken a recent beating.

But traders are still fretting over the fragile state of the global economy, and many major market indexes are still showing double-digit losses for the year. Worries that the US economy will keep slowing have weighed on markets for weeks.

"We are not sure if the rise in Nasdaq would continue," said Yoo Wook-jae, a senior analyst at Samsung Securities Co., where the Kospi index has mirrored many of the recent ups and downs in the US market. "Thus, it is difficult to say whether the Kospi would keep up its rise."

New York's rally on Thursday spread into European markets, with blue chips finishing up 1.6 percent in London, 3.1 percent in Frankfurt and 1.7 percent in Paris.

AP

PLDT, Smart cut link-up fees of rural phone firms

By Anthony O. Alcantara

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. and its subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. have lowered interconnection charges of rural phone companies in order to help fixed line companies in the provinces to survive.

PLDT and Smart yesterday signed a revised revenue-sharing scheme with the Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies Inc. at the National Telecommunications Commission office in Quezon City.

Under the agreement, the rural phone companies' revenue share from calls originating from their networks to Smart's cellular phone network would increase threefold from P1.25 per minute to P3.75 per minute.

Smart legal head Rogelio V. Quevedo said that despite the lower charges this would encourage higher call traffic.

"It would make the (members of Paptelco) viable. Like with our international long distance rates, lower charges would mean higher call volumes that would compensate for the reduction in charges," he said.

Under the original setup, Paptelco members get a 30-percent share, or P1.32 per minute, of the total toll revenue of P4.40 per minute. They have no share at all in the airtime charge of cell phone companies that range from P12 to P14 per minute.

This means Paptelco members get only 10 percent of the revenues from calls made to cell phone subscribers from fixed line subscribers. About 14 percent goes to the inter-exchange carrier, or the backbone provider that connects the calls between two networks, and 76 percent to the cellular phone company.

SM to put up shopping mall . . .

(From page B1)

the other hand, needs a major development project to jumpstart the development of its 16-hectare property at the San Lazaro racetrack into a mixed-use residential and commercial complex.

MJCI, one of the country's oldest racing clubs, has long been planning to diversify into real estate development in anticipation of the sector's rebound. The company has likewise been under pressure to scout for alternative sources of revenues as its earnings from racing activities continued to shrink with rising costs and declining patronage.

"MJCI wishes to emphasize that the business of real estate development is in addition to its core business, which is the operation of a horse-racing facility in the country," Domingo said.

The race club is, however, still expected to continue holding horse races at the San Lazaro racetrack while its owners scout for possible relocation sites on the fringes or outside Metro Manila during the three-year period of the call option given to SM Prime.

The Westmont group, which took over the reins of MJCI and Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) a few years ago, wanted to relocate the racetracks outside Metro Manila, most likely in Batangas and Cavite, and redevelop the current sites. However, lack of funding prevented the group from implementing the plan.

MJCI, which was established in 1937, holds the franchise to hold horse races and develop racetracks at the San Lazaro Hippodrome in Manila, Bulacan and other places authorized by law. It has also opened a number of off-track betting stations throughout Metro Manila to boost sales.

Stocks end higher

(From page B1)

million on Thursday.

"The buying was in response to the sharp run up in the United States last night, with most interest in blue chips, which pushed up the main index," KGI Securities sales head Fitz Aclan said.

He added that the index pulled back toward the close with investors deciding to take advantage of the earlier gains to cash in.

"There is still a lot of uncertainty going into the holiday week and there was a bit of profit-taking toward the close," he said.

Brokers also said the market was disappointed with Equitable PCI Bank's announcement that it has rejected bids from potential strategic investors to take a stake and would instead raise additional capital from its existing shareholders. The stock closed sharply lower, giving up P2.50 to finish at P49.50.

Aclan said investors took advantage of the positive sentiment generated by the US bounce, as well as recent weakness in many large cap stocks, to push blue chips up at the opening.

But with no strong local leads and a holiday-shortened trading week coming up, players were quick to liquidate positions.

He said US developments would continue to drive the near term direction of the market.

"Investors will be watching closely how Wall Street will perform tonight."

Aclan also said further direction in the exchange rate was likely to impact on equities over the next couple of weeks.

Reuters

DISCLOSURES

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. disclosed that **SM Prime Holdings Inc.** was granted the right to purchase within three years shares of MJCI's wholly owned subsidiary **San Lazaro Holdings Corp.** The move is in line with plans to develop the four-hectare property of MJCI in Sta. Cruz Manila into a shopping mall.

* * *

SM Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 4 p.m. at the Ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders as of March 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on May 10, 10 a.m. at Km. Post 13, Agusan National Highway, Pancdo, Davao City. Stockholders as of April 18 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BANKARD Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 10, 2 p.m. at the 4/F Podium Condo Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders as of April 10 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, April 6, 2001)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	805,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	3,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	127,800
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	49.5	49.5	8,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	80	80	80	80	875,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	215	215	210	211	150,030
Philippine National Bank	46	46.5	46	46	17,800
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	19	19.25	37,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.5	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1210	1195	1195	1,520
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	960	930	960	9,960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	44	44	44	44	16,100
Diversified Fin. Network	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.49	3,190,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	655	655	655	2,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	715	710	710	135,900
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.043	105,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	44	45	43	43.5	368,700
Manila Electric Co. B	59	60	58	58	1,775,800
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	1,548,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.96	0.92	0.96	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	1,499,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	500,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	530,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	7,082,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	190,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	280,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	46.5	45	46.5	68,400
San Miguel Corp. B	50	52.5	50	51.5	655,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	2,496,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	2,937,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	4,600
A. Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.14	2.16	1.98	2	8,770,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	290,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	1,190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.06	1,920,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23	23.25	23	23.25	125,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	1,630,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	15,600
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	90,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	4,682,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	420,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	540,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	450,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,030,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.27	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	3,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	20,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	310,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	14,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	8,540,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.48	0.51	1,240,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	44.5	44.5	44	44	373,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	24,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	690	690	690	400
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	12	11.75	12	53,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	3,320,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	220,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	860,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.06	1.98	2	13,973,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	230,000
SM Development Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7	13,353,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	130,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	37,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.18	2,570,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,149,610	128,782,900.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	184,429,800	440,035,025.00
PRO	32,626,000	142,612,000.00
Mining	39,930,000	641,250.00
OIL	17,110,000	610,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	276,245,410	712,681,775.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	595.30	DOWN 3.39
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,988.16	UP 25.57
PRO	577.75	DOWN 2.47
Mining	1,090.40	DOWN 10.82
OIL	1.51	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	729.26	UP 6.89
Composite	1,471.13	UP 10.46

NO. OF ADVANCES: 39; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 2,516

CURRENCIES

April 6, 2001

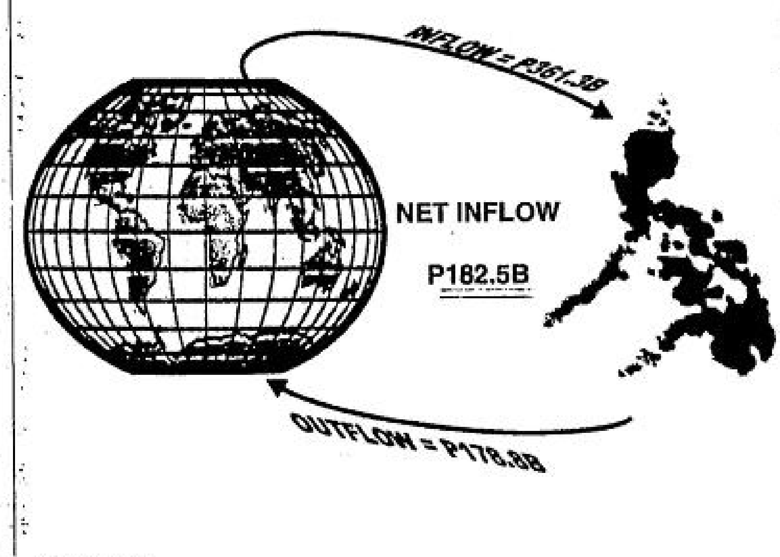
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115698	1.000000	50.1820
Japan	Yen	0.008985	0.008053	0.4041
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593217	1.428000	71.6599
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143067	0.128231	6.4349
Switzerland	Franc	0.654560	0.586682	29.4409
Canada	Dollar	0.709190	0.635647	31.8980
Singapore	Dollar	0.617226	0.553220	27.7617
Australia	Dollar	0.545574	0.488998	24.5389
Bahrain	Dinar	2.959568	2.652661	133.1158
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297487	0.266638	13.3804
Brunei	Dollar	0.613155	0.549571	27.5786
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000094	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024623	0.022070	1.1075
UAE	Dirham	0.303773	0.272272	13.6632
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.000742	0.0372
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896300	44.9781
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458271	22.9970
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136640	6.8569
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.406723	20.4102
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065137	3.2687
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022219	1.1150
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000463	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150747	7.5648
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004471	0.2244
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005387	0.2703
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022219	1.1150
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.138066	57.1104

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Capital flows to and from RP

(2000, in billion pesos)



Source: NSCB

Of the total P361.3 billion in capital inflow into the country last year, 78 percent or P281.7 billion was accounted for by earnings of overseas Filipino workers. At current prices, net inflow of factor income last year rose by 14.6 percent to P182.5 billion compared to the P159.3 billion recorded in 1999. Even at constant 1985 prices, net inflow was up 9 percent to P51.2 billion.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Faltering Japan economy worries Filipino exporters

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JAPANESE corporations are likely to slow down on their outsourcing activities as the faltering Japanese economy makes it more attractive for them to procure their inputs from their domestic market rather than from factories overseas such as the Philippines.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II observed during his trip to Japan last month that Japanese businessmen have become more prudent in their overseas expansion because of a weak yen which has made it more viable to produce their products in Japan.

In the past few years, a strong yen drove Japanese companies to other countries for their expansion or relocation of current operations to cut costs.

The Philippines is one of the main beneficiaries of Japan's outsourcing trend as Filipino workers ranked high in terms of quality output among Japanese companies. Japan is one of the Philippines' major sources of foreign capital as they accounted for 37 percent of total investments infused into the country's economic zones since 1995.

Roxas said that with a weaker yen, there "is a weaker impetus for Japanese companies for outsourcing."

Roxas said the projected decline in the world economy, led by the slump in the US and Japan, has likewise reduced the need for foreign investors to expand their operations.

"There is less urgency now for them to invest outside Japan," said Roxas who went to Japan to urge businessmen to take a look at opportunities in the Philippines under the Macapagal administration. Among the key business groups Roxas met in his Japan trip were Mitsui, Marubeni Mitsubishi, Kawasaki Steel and Toshiba.

In his discussions with the Japanese businessmen, Roxas said foreign investors were worried about the country's peace and order problem and labor activism.

Still, Roxas said a number of Japanese businessmen were still interested in investing in the country. He said that seven of the 11 Japanese companies that visited the Philippines early this year had booked return flights to the Philippines to firm up their investment plans in the country.

The 67-member Japan investment mission led by the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) expressed confidence in the Macapagal administration but it urged the newly installed president to immediately address concerns on the instability of government policies, lack of incentives and threat to personal security.

RP use of Japan ODA improving, says Neda

DISBURSEMENTS of official development assistance (ODA) funds from Japan reached 65.8 billion yen during the Japanese fiscal year 2000 that ended last month.

This was reported yesterday by Economic Planning Secretary Dante B. Canlas, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, following a dialogue with representatives of Manila-based donor agencies earlier this week.

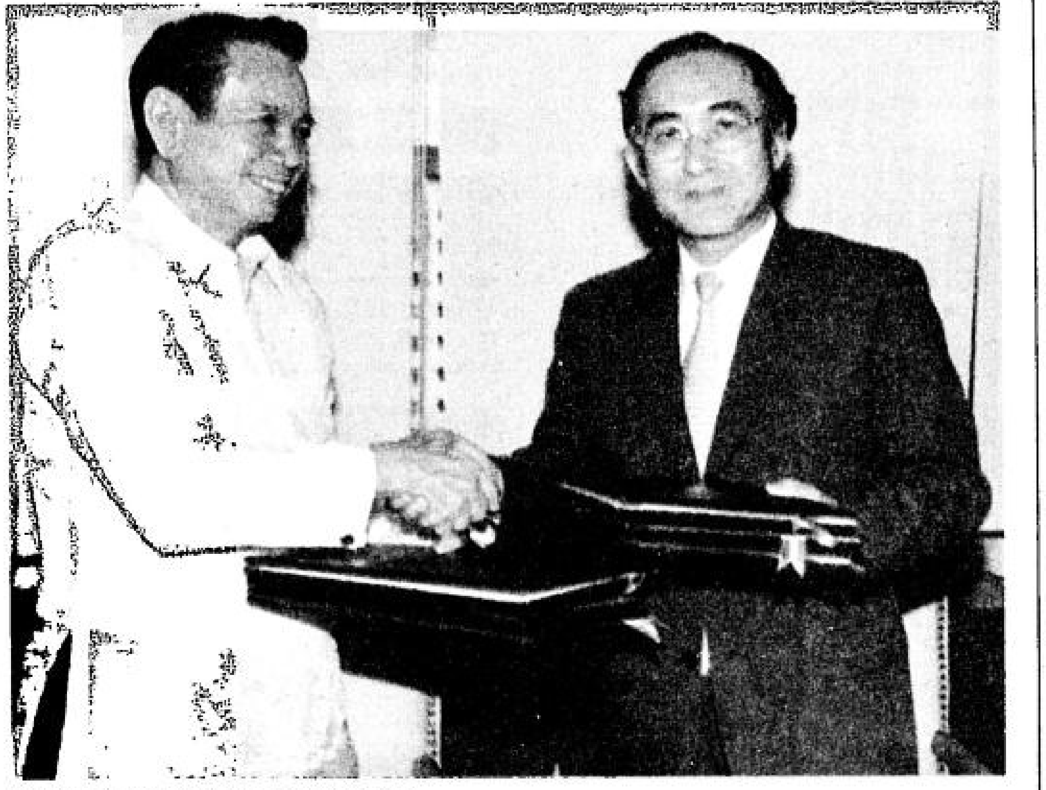
Disbursements represent the amount drawn by the government from the loan during the period. A high disbursement rate shows that the implementing agencies of the government are able to use funds efficiently and that projects are being implemented on schedule.

This was the highest level of disbursement attained in the 20-year history of Japanese ODA to the Philippines, according to Seichi Kitazawa, chief representative of the Manila Office of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The amount, he said, was 15 percent higher than the 57.2-billion yen disbursed last year.

The improvement in ODA disbursement was achieved through the joint effort of both governments in addressing the problems plaguing the implementation of ODA-funded projects in the Philippines.

During a special meeting Tuesday, the Neda board confirmed 10 contracts amounting to P4.3 billion to be funded by JBIC.

The contracts include the construction and rehabilitation of feeder ports ; consultancy services under the maritime safety improvement project; consultancy services under the Bohol irrigation project phase II; construction of pumping stations and floodgates under the Metro Manila flood control project West of Manggahan floodway; Bamban river improvement works—under the Pinatubo hazard urgent mitigation project phase II and the Masao river improvement —under the lower Agusan development project. The Japanese government has reaffirmed its support for and confidence in the Macapagal administration following the recent signing of the Exchange of Notes between Japan and the Philippines for nine ODA loans amounting to 54.6 billion yen under Japan's 24th Yen Credit.



24TH YEN LOAN PACKAGE

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Yoshihisa Ara (right) and Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. (left), shake hands after signing and formalizing three Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects consisting of the 24th Yen Loan Package, amounting to 54.642 billion yen (about P21.993 billion), Grant Aid for the Increase of Food Production amounting to 1.55 billion yen (P623.9 million), and Cultural Grant Aid Program amounting to 49.7 million yen (about P20 milllion), for the first time under the Macapagal administration, at the Department of Foreign Affairs on March 30, 2001.

GOINGS-ON

Queenbank declares dividends

DESPITE the economic crisis, Queen City Development Bank, in its board meeting on March 30, declared P10 million in cash dividends for stockholders of records as of Dec. 31,2000.

The P10 million represents P2.50 in earnings per share. The amount was set aside from its total surplus of P29.79 million as of Dec. 31.

SGV's annual audit report for 2000 recorded the bank's net income before and after tax at P12,539,484 and P8,803,658, respectively, or an after tax return on equity (ROE) of P2.20 per share.

On Jan. 2 this year, the bank successfully completed its capital build-up program, improving its paid-in capital to P400 million, exceeding the P64-million capital requirement set for thrift banks in the provinces by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Canon's hi-series calculators

CANON Marketing Philippines Inc. recently unveiled to the Philippine market its latest innovation in business and personal computing, the Canon hi-series calculators.

CMPI president Saroshi Kimura, vice president for sales and marketing Ramon G. Arfecio, calculator manager Che-Che Lacanilao and marketing manager Tet Magno led the launch of the hi-series calculators LS-88Hi, WS-1210 Hi, TX-1210Hi, LS120Hi, LC210Hi and P23 D Hi.

Lacanilao said during the launch that the latest models were geared for all market levels including students, professionals and entrepreneurs.

"We want to make a difference by setting new trends and incorporating unique features in our calculators for the unique taste and needs of the Asian market," she added.

Petron taps partner for $1.2-B project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MAJOR oil industry player Petron Corp. said it would tap investors for its $1.2-billion fuel conversion project although it had said earlier it might do the project on its own.

Petron chair Jose A. Syjuco Jr. yesterday said Petron would have operational control of the new company but the project would not be wholly owned by Petron.

This was the project shelved by Petron last year due to funding constraints.

Syjuco said Petron has been awaiting the results of Citibank NA's study on the feasibility of the project. "Since the time we shelved it, things might have changed and this could affect the feasibility of the project," he said.

Citibank's final report will be completed in the next few weeks.

"If the results of the study were favorable, we will seek the approval of the board regarding the strategy toward possible partnerships, which units to include and the phasing," Syjuco said.

Syjuco said, however, that the most immediate issue to address was whether the project is still viable. The matter of whether to include an isomerization plant in the fuel conversion project, he said, would have to be determined separately.

Petron is considering the establishment of an isomerization plant, which would make its products compliant to the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

The law requires the aromatic and benzene contents of gasoline from 45 percent and 4 percent, respectively, to 35 percent and 2 percent in 2003.

It also mandates the reduction of the sulfur content of diesel from the current 0.2 percent to 0.05 percent in 2004.

"If the (fuel conversion)project will not push through, we still have to think of the isomerization plant because we have to meet the specifications of the clean air act the cheapest way possible," Syjuco said.

Petron estimated that the new facilities needed to comply with the law would cost the company about P6 billion.

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MWC projects near completion

THE AYALA-controlled Manila Water Co. is on a roll.

The company is on the verge of completing a number of major modernization initiatives by mid-2001, including the installation of over 100 kilometers of mainline, secondary and tertiary waterlines throughout the east zone concession area of Metro Manila.

The projects, costing over P1 billion, will boost water supply in Manila Water's concession areas such as northern Quezon City, Pasig, Marikina, San Juan, Makati, Mandaluyong, Taguig-Pateros, Antipolo and Cainta by as much as 37.2 percent at the end of the year. Other areas covered by its concession are Cainta, San Andres, Sta. Ana districts of Manila and certain towns in Rizal.

While expanding its network, Manila Water is also rehabilitating its decades-old pumping stations and reservoirs to push more supply to the dry areas in the city. It is projecting a 14-percent increase in the supply of water from the Balara station; 33-percent increase in the supply from the Pasig station; 22 percent, San Juan; 36 percent, Cubao, and 81 percent, Makati.

Water supply up

For populated areas in the higher sections of the city, Manila Water has built new deep wells and line boosters, and rehabilitated old MWSS wells in San Juan, Quezon City, Marikina, Antipolo, Taguig-Pateros, Rizal towns and Mandaluyong City.

To date, more than 20,000 residents are benefiting from the additional supply, with another 100,000 residents targeted in the next two years.

The last three and half years of the MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) privatization have seen the company's overall concession fee to the government increase from P6 billion (at P26 to a dollar in 1997) to P11 billion. This was due to the steep drop in the value of the peso against the dollar.

But the privatization concession agreement allows for the recovery of the additional costs brought about by the peso depreciation over the life of the 25-year agreement.

Cash flow damper

Antonino T. Aquino, president of Manila Water, said the company, together with the west zone concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI), had received an assurance with regard to their need for additional pesos for servicing the debts passed on to them by the MWSS.

"What we are working on is the earlier recovery of any negative cash flow impact of the peso depreciation," Aquino pointed out. "We need this so we can sustain our service improvement programs."

Largely on the strength of a $55-million loan obtained last year, Manila Water has been able to bring over 50 percent more water—from 440 million liters per day (MLD) to over 700 MLD—to some 400,000 households in the east zone, compared to only 300,000 households when it took over the area in 1997.

Water losses from physical leaks and commercial losses from pilferage have been reduced from a high of 65 percent in 1997 to 43 percent in January this year.

Financial turnaround

At the core of Manila Water's drive to eliminate the problem of widespread water pilferage, illegal water selling by syndicates, and the danger of water contamination due to poorly connected waterlines is its "Tubig Para sa Barangay" program which aims to convert non-revenue water (NRW) in many areas of the city into billed volume.

The project has benefited over 150,000 urban poor.

The project has been successfully undertaken in coordination with the east zone's local government units particularly in the heavily populated communities of Quezon City, Pasig City, Marikina City, Mandaluyong City and Makati City.

"We have made some modest gains in our profit and loss statement," Aquino said, attributing Manila Water's performance largely to the satisfactory revenues received from its operations in depressed areas.

Long haul

Manila Water will continue to handle the water distribution and sewerage system of the east zone for the next 23 years.

"We're here for the long haul," promised Aquino, even as he pointed out that tariff adjustments were an inevitable and necessary component in the life of the concession agreement between the government and the private sector if heavy investments to sustain Manila Water's service expansion programs were to continue.

Spex to export Malampaya by-products

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV has secured an agreement with its London-based trading affiliate, Shell Trading and Shipping Co., to sell the condensate by-products of the Malampaya gas field.

Stasco will sell the condensate with the help of Spex's Singapore-based affiliate Shell International Eastern Trading Co. Ltd.

The Malampaya gas field, situated in northwest off Palawan, is expected to produce 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in 20 years.

Spex managing director David J. Greer said in an interview that starting next year, the Malampaya facilities would produce 400 million cubic feet of purified gases per day.

It will also yield about 25,000 barrels of condensate, the by-products that will be left after impurities are removed from the gas.

Greer said that the condensate would most likely be exported to Taiwan or Singapore or to other regional refineries that will offer the best price.

Greer said Stasco might also sell the oil that would be produced in Malampaya.

Earlier, the official said Spex was keen on developing an oil deposit beneath the natural gas deposit in Malampaya.

He said there was about 200 million barrels of oil in Malampaya, of which 35 million to 50 million barrels are recoverable.

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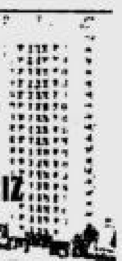

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Notice is given that estate of Miguel Perido Jr. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. 49 Page 10 Book I Series 2001 of Notary Public Edwin A. Quilates of Quezon City PDI-March31April7&14,2001

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ANA MARIE MILANES

Whose photo appears above with last known address at **920 Craig St., Sampaloc Manila,** is wanted for 3 counts of BP 22 now pending before the Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati City. A warrant of arrest has been issued by MTC Judge Violeta Pereña. Please contact Tel. Nos. **729-4050** to **56** for any information leading to the arrest of said Ana Marie Milanes and shall entitle the informant to a reward.

(PDI - Apr. 7, 2001)

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Dead reckoning

Q. What's the origin of the word *autopsy*?

A. It's from the Greek *autopsia*, meaning "a seeing with one's own eyes." *Autopsia* can be dissected into two other Greek root words: *autos* ("self") and *opsis* ("a sight").

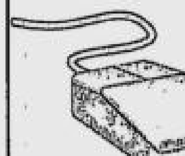
For the Record. In a medico-legal autopsy, the coroner makes a huge, full-body length "Y" incision that opens up the entire front of the body. The incision starts at each shoulder, proceeds on an angle down to the mid-chest, and then joins into a straight line that extends all the way to the pelvis. Taken out first are the organs of the upper abdominal cavity -- the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea. The coroner then takes out the lower abdominal organs, which include the liver, spleen, kidneys, adrenals, stomach, and intestines. Slices of each organ are taken and tested. The internal genitals of both males and females are examined; in the case of females, the uterus and vagina are carefully studied for signs of pregnancy, rape, or some form of sexual assault. The organs of the pelvic region, including the bladder, the uterus, and the ovaries, are also removed, and samples of each are taken and analyzed.

Past Forward. This day in 1871: Epifanio de los Santos, Filipino historian-writer-scholar, was born in Malabon, Rizal (now Metro Manila). The former Highway 54 was renamed in his honor, earning the popular acronym EDSA.

WORD WATCH

Acronym (ak ruh nim) : from the Greek *acro* - ("at the top") + *onyma*, "name."

PDI – April 7, 2001



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Tender documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) at the Office of the Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City beginning **April 10, 2001**.

Those who are not yet accredited with NPC will have to apply for accreditation first before they could be allowed to participate in the bidding.

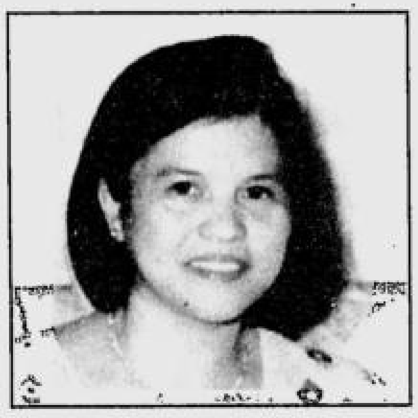
Accreditation forms are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00 also at the above mentioned office. Accomplished accreditation forms should be submitted not later than **April 24, 2001** to enable possible participation in the tender.

Pre-bid conference and will be on **April 16, 2001** at 10:00 A.M. at the Kañao Room, Solarium, Bldg. 1, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City respectively. Deadline for submission of technical and price proposals is not later than 10:00 A.M. on **May 10, 2001** also at the Kañao Room.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. CORPUZ**
VP/Head Genco 6 & Chairman
Fuel Procurement Committee

(PDI--April 4 & 7, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



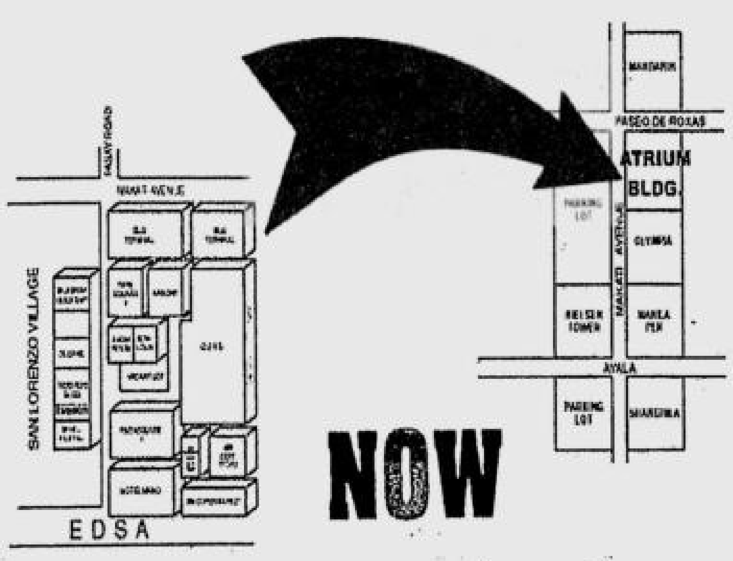
Notice is hereby given to the public that **ROSITA D. DE GUZMAN** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with Sara Lee Philippines, Inc. and Metrolab Industries Inc. as of March 28 2001.

Any transaction entered into by her as of this date shall not be honored by the company.

From: **Management**
Sara Lee Philippines, Inc./
Metrolab Industries, Inc.

(PDI – Apr. 7 & 8, 2001)

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute for CY 2001.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) from the Property & Supply Department c/o Ms. MAE MARIE E. HERNANDEZ from April 10-23, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (excluding holidays and weekends).

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 PM	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders Venue and Time	Bid Opening	Venue and Time
Janitorial	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 9:00-11:00 AM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 9:00 AM
Security	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 1:00-3:00 PM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 1:30 PM
Engineering Maintenance	April 24, 2001	April 25, 2001 Lecture Room 1 3:00-5:00 PM	April 30, 2001	Lecture Room 1 3:00 PM

Interested Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. SEC registration with articles of incorporation (copy should be properly notarized)
2. Business permit
3. Department of Health Accreditation (if applicable)
4. List of clients in the past 5 years
5. Certification of performance for existing clients (except RITM)
6. Organizational profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
7. Inventory of existing equipment
8. Audited Financial Statement for CY's 2000 and 1999

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the scheduled day of bid opening accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price. The bid security may be in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

RITM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Institute.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA, M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI – Apr. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas
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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

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-5-	units	Printer 24 pin Dot Matrix, 132 columns
-12-	units	Inkjet Printer, 600 x 1200 dpi w/ complete accessories
-2-	units	Notebook Computer Intel Pentium III - 600 Mhz processor with CD Rom Drive

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Chairman, PBAC thru the General Services and Property Division, Room 301, 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Building corner F.B. Harrison and 7th Street, Pasay City not later than April 18, 2001 photocopies of the following documents (original to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation issued by SEC.
2. Business Registration issued by DTI.
3. Valid Municipal License.
4. Income Tax Return (ITR) for the past 2-years.
5. Audited financial statements for the past 2-years.
6. Value Added Tax registration.
7. List of clients for the past 3-years.
8. Company profile.

Only those who comply with the requirements and are prequalified by OWWA will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and the bidding which will be conducted on later dates to be advised to the pre-qualified bidders.

The two (2) envelopes system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever loses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bids.

For more information please see or call the General Services and Property Division, 3/F Rm. 301, OWWA Center Building at phone numbers **891-7601** to **24** local 5304 and **833-0113**.

(Sgd.) **MARIANITO D. ROQUE**
Chairman
Pre-Qualification, Bids and
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(PDI - Apr 7 8 & 9 2001)

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AFTER 2-DAY DELAY

Japan unveils eco package to muted cheers

TOKYO—Japan unveiled yesterday a package of measures to bolster its economy by tackling deep-seated financial problems that have hobbled growth for a decade.

The package, agreed after an embarrassing two-day delay, is aimed at helping banks to dispose of a mountain of bad loans and at reducing their vulnerability to stock market swings by setting up a fund to buy part of their 43 trillion yen ($346 billion) in shareholdings.

Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, who announced his long-heralded resignation on Friday, said the economy needed a pick-me-up because the recovery had stalled due to slow private demand.

"Structural problems are behind such weak economic conditions, and our priority is to get to the root of those problems," Mori told a meeting of the government and ruling coalition parties convened to approve the measures.

Financial markets broadly welcomed the package, which was seen tackling some of Japan's core problems without resorting to huge fiscal pump priming—a feature of countless past packages.

The benchmark Nikkei average was up 107.89 points at 13,489.27 in early afternoon.

Economics Minister Taro Aso said the government, as well as the Japanese people, now realized that painful reforms were needed to put the world's No. 2 economy back on its feet after a lost decade in which growth averaged just one percent.

"I am thankful that we can start economic reforms that involve some pain," Aso told reporters.

Investors called the measures a step in the right direction but questioned whether they would be implemented swiftly and in full. Officials, for instance, gave no timetable for preparing legislation to set up the stock-buying body.

"I'd say that these are quite important steps, but it's by no means the end of the story. This is one in a series of packages we're going to see this year," said Peter Tasker, director of strategy at Arcus Investments in Tokyo. *Reuters*

JAPANESE Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, right, reads drafts prior to the start of an emergency economic package meeting at his official residence in Tokyo. Earlier in the morning, Mori told his Cabinet that he had made up his mind to resign, saying, "I think it is necessary to tackle mounting issues both at home and abroad under a new administration." At left is Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

AP

US Fed officials upbeat but alert to uncertainty

NEW YORK—Federal Reserve officials said Thursday the recent weakness in stocks, consumer confidence and manufacturing clouded the US economy's near-term outlook but they were cautiously optimistic that growth would soon recover.

As US stocks enjoyed a rare day in the sun, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco president Robert Parry said the immediate outlook for economic growth was "rocky" given financial market and economic uncertainty.

"So that's all the more reason to assure you that the Fed will be especially alert in monitoring economic developments," he said.

He added that the Fed stood ready to act if stocks, exchange rates or consumer confidence posed risks to its inflation or economic growth policy aims.

Although Parry, speaking at the Rotary Club in California's capital city Sacramento, stressed the Fed did not have goals for equity values, he said the stock market could have important effects on consumer and business spending.

"And when any important economic factor—like the stock market, or foreign exchange rates, or consumer confidence—appears to cause inflation or economic activity to deviate from the Fed's basic goals, the Fed will respond," said Parry, who is not currently a voting member of the Fed's interest rate-setting Open Market Committee.

Thursday's round of Fed officials, including Federal Reserve Bank of Boston president Cathy Minehan and Federal Reserve Governor Laurence Meyer, were all speaking on the eve of Friday's release of a key government jobs report for March.

Economists polled by Reuters expect the jobless rate to have ticked up to 4.3 percent from 4.2 percent in February with the jaded economy adding just 58,000 jobs last month versus 135,000 a month before. *Reuters*

Danger of global recession grows

NEW YORK—A global economic slowdown was in danger of turning into a full-blown global recession, the Economic Cycle Research Institute said Thursday.

ECRI, a New York-based private firm that tracks business cycles in major economies, said recessions in the United States, Japan, Korea and Taiwan—which together represent half of global gross domestic product—were unavoidable.

ECRI, which defines a recession as a "pronounced, pervasive and persistent decline in output, income, employment and sales," said such downturns were also "very likely" in Mexico and Australia while Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Spain were already headed for major slowdowns.

Many financial market players define recessions as two consecutive quarters of declining gross domestic product.

"If the prospects for the major European economies dim further, the world will face its first global recession since the mid-1970s," ECRI said in the report.

"Global recessions are particularly problematic because there is no locomotive to pull the other economies out of recession. As a result, global recessions tend to be longer and more severe than the asynchronous recessions we have seen in the 1990s."

As the US economy has slowed in recent months, most private sector analysts have cut their forecasts for world growth but most are still looking for modest global expansion in 2001.

The world's top economies have not simultaneously fallen into recession since 1974 after the 1973 oil shock battered industrialized nations with a quadrupling of crude prices.

ECRI has designed an array of leading indicators and economic models that are designed to forecast changes in business cycles, recessions and recoveries.

German Finance Minister Hans Eichel said Thursday that central banks should take into account the global growth situation when weighing their interest rate policy decisions.

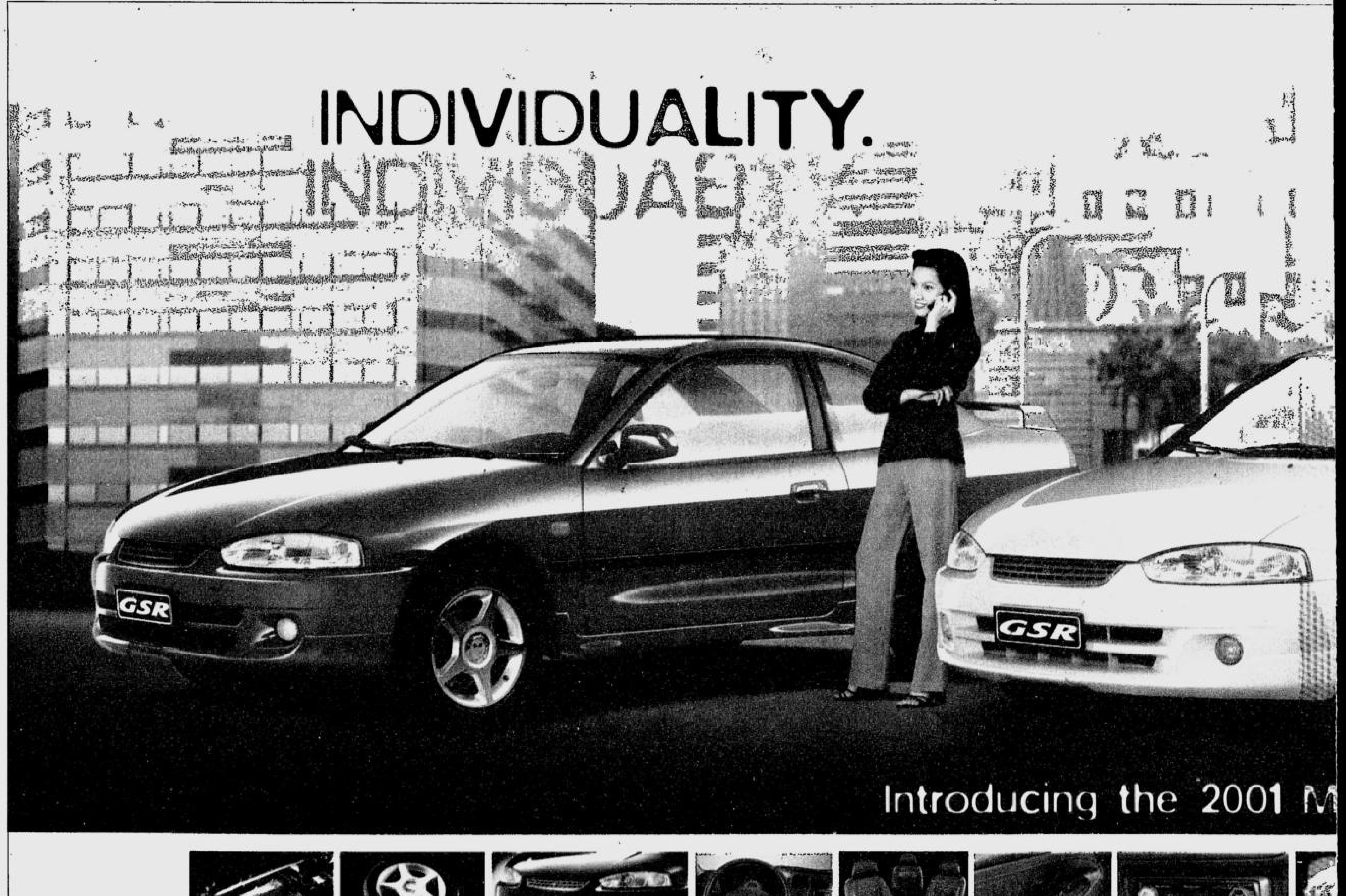
US economic growth slowed to an annualized rate of just one percent in the fourth quarter of 2000. *Reuters*

Consumer stocks could offer haven

HONG KONG—Asian investors anxious about the slowing global economy could insulate themselves from the downturn by buying domestic demand-driven stocks in the second quarter, fund managers and analysts say.

China offers a host of opportunities, but easier monetary and fiscal policy across much of the region should underpin consumer spending—and stocks from tobacco companies to food and beverage producers to shopping mall operators stand to benefit.

Consumption growth in China should top 9 percent again in 2001, according to investment house Salomon Smith Barney. *Reuters*



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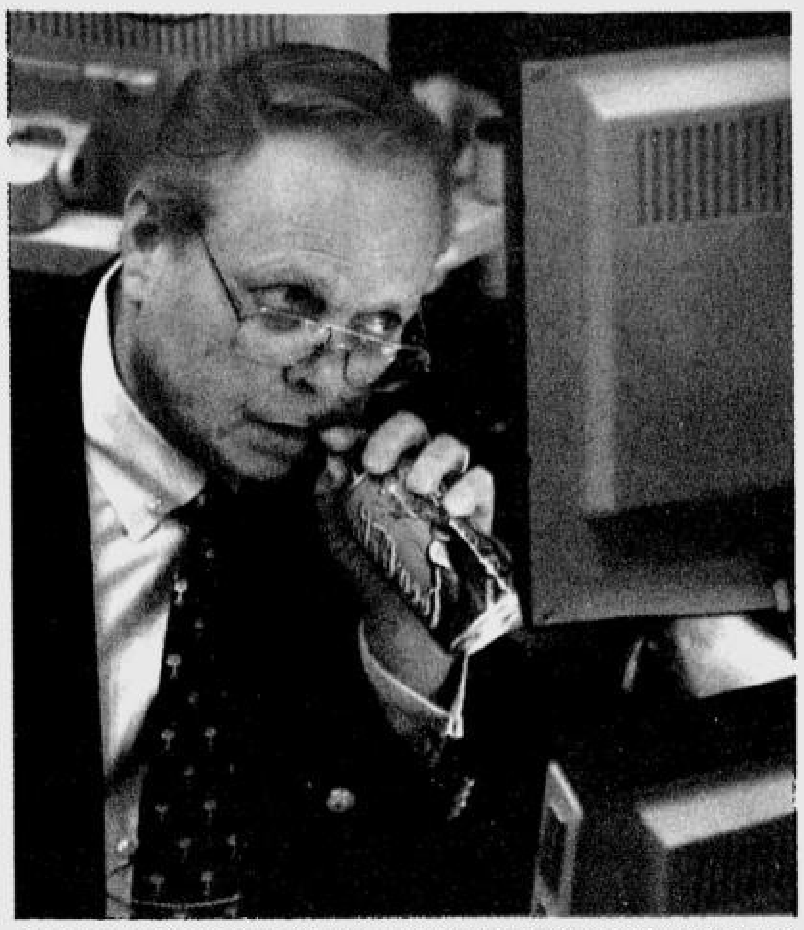

SPECIALIST Kenneth Smith sips a soft drink while he watches his quote screens on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 402.63 points to 9,918.05 on Thursday. The index's run-up was its second largest daily point gain, after a 499.19-point gain on March 16, 2000. AP

Asean finance officials fail to reach currency swaps deal

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Southeast Asian finance officials had so far failed to reach an agreement on a system of bilateral currency swaps but had achieved a "broad concept of consensus," officials said yesterday.

Breaking from three days of meetings to lay the groundwork for talks between Association of Southeast Asian Nations finance ministers this weekend, officials gave differing accounts of the amount of progress made on the currency swap plan.

"We have a broad concept of consensus," said Sathit Limpongpan, director general of the Thai Finance Ministry's fiscal policy office.

"The Asean consensus is that we have a common stand for the negotiations on the bilateral swap arrangements," he said.

But Indonesian Finance Ministry secretary general Noor Suad said an agreement had not yet been reached.

"We have set up a special committee to do that," he said. "The committee will be giving its recommendations, maybe tomorrow" to the finance ministers.

The Asean meeting in Kuala Lumpur comes as most countries, apart from Malaysia, are grappling with currency weakness against the US dollar, plunging exports and manufacturing output growth, as well as political leadership scuffles in the region.

Bilateral currency swaps were discussed at an Asean meeting in May as a way to make Asian currencies more resilient to external shocks.

Asean countries are trying to agree on a plan before discussing it with the so-called plus three countries of Japan, China and South Korea. Asean officials will hold talks with plus three officials on Sunday.

"I hope to have closer cooperation among Asean nations to stabilize regional currencies because it is very important to all countries involved," Thai Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said as he arrived Friday for the meetings.

Ministers will also discuss regional strategies to combat the effects of slowing US economic growth and the troubled Japanese economy, the two biggest markets for export-dependent Southeast Asia. *AP*

WTO defends drug patents pact

GENEVA—Developing countries in the World Trade Organization on Thursday defended the body's controversial patents pact, saying it could help get cheaper drugs into poorer states.

Both industrialized and developing WTO members agreed to hold a special meeting in June to see how the agreement, known under its acronym as TRIPS, could be best applied to ensure a better flow of low-cost medicines.

A proposal tabled by Zimbabwe on behalf of African countries in the WTO said the meeting should aim at making clear for all members how they could use TRIPS provisions to ensure an adequate supply of drugs to tackle AIDS and other diseases.

A Brazilian official, sources present at a session of the trade body's TRIPS Council said, told the gathering that the June session "should send an unambiguous message that the WTO is not part of the problem."

Switzerland, home to major pharmaceutical giants, echoed these views, saying the meeting should be used to show that TRIPS "is part of the solution."

The discussion came as United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan won agreement from six major drug companies to keep cutting prices of AIDS treatments to the poorest nations and on the eve of an expert meeting in Norway on the issue sponsored by the WTO and the World Health Organization.

TRIPS, the Trade-Related Intellectual Property agreement that formed part of the 1994 world trade pact, has been fiercely attacked by some nongovernmental organizations who say it prevents poorer countries from fighting disease.

These accusations have increased recently as the local offshoots of 39 international pharmaceutical companies have pursued a case against measures by the South African government to ease the import of legal copies of patented drugs.

Anti-WTO activists have also pointed to a case the United States has taken to the WTO under the TRIPS accord against Brazilian measures allowing for production of patented drugs to be compulsorily licensed to local firms. *Reuters*

Weak yen could hit ringgit peg

TOKYO—A weak yen intensifies chances that the Malaysian ringgit's peg to the US dollar will have to be loosened, analysts say.

But a weak yen won't be a major drawback to the export competitiveness of other members of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) as their currencies can fall in tandem with the yen.

A meeting this weekend of Asean brings together finance ministers of the group, later joined by senior officials of Japan, China and South Korea.

"With other Asean currencies tracking the yen's fall, the ringgit looks increasingly expensive. This is fanning market speculation of its departure from the peg in a couple of months," said Tetsuji Sano, a senior economist at Nomura Research Institute in Singapore.

The Japanese currency has depreciated over 11 percent this year and hit a two-and-a-half-year low of 126.84 yen per dollar on Monday. It traded just above 125 yen on Friday afternoon.

The Thai baht hit a three-year low of 45.50 on Wednesday, while Indonesia's rupiah has shed about 35 percent of its value in the past 12 months.

A rise in the dollar against the yen translates into a loss in competitiveness of Malaysian exports under the current foreign exchange regime of a fixed exchange rate of 3.8 ringgit per dollar. *Reuters*

Mazda trebles net loss forecast to $1.3B

TOKYO—Japan's Mazda Motor Corp. said yesterday it would post a group net loss of $1.3 billion, three times more than previously forecast for the fiscal year 2000, because it had adopted a new accounting policy.

Group net losses at the nation's fourth-ranking automaker for the year ended in March would plunge to a net loss of 156.5 billion yen ($1.3 billion) from the previous estimate of 49.5 billion yen.

The sharp downward revision "reflects the full write-off of Mazda's transition obligation of new accounting for retirement benefits," the company said in a statement.

Previously the company had announced an amortization of its pension obligations over 15 years.

The company also forecast its net sales would slip 3.3 percent from the original estimate to 2.03 trillion yen, citing its difficulties in the domestic market.

"The lower revenue reflects lower volume and adverse product mix, primarily in Japan," the company said.

However, it added that its cost-cutting efforts fully offset the negative impact resulting from the sales drop.

Mazda, controlled by US auto giant Ford Motor Co., also noted the company was having a tough time amid global economic slowdown, sluggish market demand and intensifying competition.

"The environment in which Mazda operates is becoming more severe," the company said. *AFP*

Australia to pursue free trade pacts

CANBERRA, Australia—Australia is pursuing a two-way free trade agreement with Thailand and will push for similar pacts with countries across eastern Asia.

The talks with Thailand are the second with a country from a free trade group formed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations after Canberra's bid to join the Asean Free Trade Area was blocked by Malaysia last year.

Since then, Australia has begun negotiations with Singapore for a two-way free trade agreement and is now hoping to begin similar negotiations with Thailand.

Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said Australia had a very strong focus on strengthening economic relationships with all Asean nations.

"At the same time, we're negotiating with Singapore. If we get the opportunity to move to the next stage with Thailand, we will do the same there," Vaile told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

The government was preparing to take advantage of opportunities provided by countries prepared to walk at the same pace as Australia, Vaile said.

"And ultimately we'll move right across the region."

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer confirmed that Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai and Downer discussed a two-way free trade agreement in Chile last week where they attended the first Forum for East Asia Latin America Cooperation.

A senior trade official told The Associated Press, Australia would look to negotiate similar deals with other Asean members if it was in Canberra's interests.

"We'd like to have an agreement with Malaysia, but it would not be of similar benefit to Malaysia and they would not want it. They are still essentially an agricultural nation and not a very efficient producer. The Philippines could be a possibility," the official said on condition of anonymity.

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HAO HUANG SUEN YENG

Passed into eternal light on April 3, 2001
at the age of 85.

She will be deeply missed by her beloved husband **Marcelo**; her children, **Alfredo, Johnny, William, Loretta, Victor, Rosy** (†), **Mary, Alexander, Helen**, and **Robert**; her sons-in-law, **Joe** and **Ben**; daughters-in-law, **Terry, Siok Wah, Joan, Norma, Alice** and **Tessie**; grandchildren **Frederick** and **Elaine, Edwin; Geraldine** and **Sammy, Jerry** and **May, Harry, John-John; Billy** and **Lori, Jo Marie, Susie** and **William, Timmy; Fr. Jarvis, Toto** and **Sharon; Rose Marie, Lori Ann, George, Mark; Bendix, Marigold, Mimi, Bendel, Benley; Alexis, Alison; Marvin, Suzanne, Paul** and **Ted**; great grandchildren **Tristan, Chantal, Sam-Sam** and **Hay-C**.

Her body lies in state at Chapel B5, South Wing of La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be in the morning of Tuesday, April 10, 2001, at the Manila Memorial Park, Plaridel, Bulacan, after a 7:00 a.m. memorial service at La Funeraria Paz.

Avelina B. Bandong

(Widow of Former Division Superintendent
Cesario C. Bandong Sr.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 5, 2001
at the age of 95.

Her dearest children **Benjamin** and **Dorothy Buenaventura, Erlinda** and **Teodulo Garcia, Cesario Jr.**, and **Leonora Leal, Ofelia, Nelly** and **Emmanuel Cruz, Gloria** and **Bonifacio Querijiro, Paquito** (✞) and **Lorenza Bandian**; sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren; brothers and sisters **Sixto** (✞), **Leonora** (✞), **Felicidad** (✞) and **Liwanag**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at No. 251 Gen. Luna Street, Sta. Ana, San Mateo, Rizal.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 at the San Mateo Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Nuestra Señora de Aranzazu Parish Church, San Mateo, Rizal.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

Dr. Fernando M. Costelo, Jr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 5, 2001 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Bella Chan**; daughters **Ma. Elizabeth, Ma. Bettina, Margareth** and **Marie Anne**; sons-in-law **Ray Mendoza, Rommel Diaz** and **Darvin Evangelista** and grandchildren **Nico, Bea, Josh, Avielle, Andre** and **Avery** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at PHILAM Home Subdivision-Mortuary Chapel, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 8, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the PHILAM Home Subdivision-Mortuary Chapel, Quezon City.

"Daddy, your presence will be deeply missed,
but the memories of your love and goodness will
live with us and remain in our hearts forever..."

COL. ALBERTO I. CRUZ (Ret.)

Peacefully joined his Creator on 5th April, 2001

His loving wife **Fulgencia**; children **Alberto Jr., Evangeline** and **La Verne Tiantes** and **Dalton**; grandchildren **Christian Diorisimo, Karlo Angelo**, and **Kristine Marie** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Street corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

WENCESLAO LEAÑO, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 6, 2001
at the age of 58.

His beloved wife **CHARIE**; children **MICHELLE** and **SHERWIN, MICHAEL, MARLON**; mother **MAMA MIA**; brothers and sisters **FE** and **JUN, OPHELIA, BOBOT** and **ZENY, BETH** and **KIT, CESAR** and **CORA**; grandchildren **YVES, VINCE**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Transfer to Meycauayan, Bulacan to be announced later.

NORBERTO CORNES VICENCIO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 5, 2001
at the age of 60.

His beloved wife **Lillith Villanueva**; children **Roseller & Carol, Virginia & Ramon, Valerie & Pol, Vivienne & Patrick**; grandchildren, brothers **Ramon & Ricardo**; sisters **Leonisa, Aida, Divinia & Marinella**; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Dayao Funeral Home, #2 Bayani Street, Galas, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on April 8, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Balintawak, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

JOSEFINA (PINING) S. POSADAS

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 06, 2001
at the age of 90.

Her late husband LUIS (†); loving children BEN & VENUS, NEMY & PERSING, LUIS, JR. & CIONNIE, JOSIE & DAN MAAÑO, VICKY & ART FERRER; grandchildren, great grandchildren & great great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capitol Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on April 10, 2001 after the 8:30 AM Mass at the Eternal Garden, Baesa, Caloocan City

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ROSALINDA MAGDALUYO ASUNCION

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 3, 2001.

Her husband **Leopoldo**; children **Edgardo, Ronald**, and **Ryan**; brothers **Raymundo, Renato** and **Romeo**; and sisters **Ma. Theresa, Aida** and **Lydia** request all her loved ones to pray for the peaceful repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the Faith Chapel of St. John Bosco Parish, Makati.

Interment will be after the 1:00 p.m. Mass today April 7, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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DOTC reveals plans for nationwide airport development

DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Assistant Secretary for Planning George D. Esguerra recently announced the department's National Airport Development Plan (NADP) which would upgrade, develop and modernize airports all over the country. Speaking at a briefing held recently at Camp Aguinaldo, Esguerra enumerated a list of current and future projects of the development plan to prepare the Philippines for its liberalized air policies. The briefing was held for commercial and defense attaches in anticipation of the ongoing 7th Aviation, Maritime and Defense Show slated April 5-8 at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

The NADP, Esguerra said, would benefit Mindanao the most. Mindanao would have "the greatest concentration of airport development funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB)." A project costing P4.68 billion, for example, would modernize the Davao International Airport and extend its runway another 500 meters. Other projects include a P4.5-billion project to transfer the Cagayan de Oro Airport to Laguindingan and an P8.3-billion project to upgrade the airports in Butuan, Cotabato, Dipolog and Pagadian.

Airports in Visayas and Luzon are likewise included in the NDAP. Tacloban Airport, for instance, will be upgraded and the Bacolod Airport will be relocated to a safer location in Silay. There are also plans to upgrade the Laoag International Airport and the creation of a cargo terminal in Batangas. The DOTC, Esguerra said, also remains committed to the eventual relocation of the NAIA to Clark.

The direction of the plan is to build airports of international standards at different regional centers throughout the country. An important component of the plan is the modernization of air navigational facilities to make air traffic in the Philippines much safer.

CAMERA CLUB 2001 BOARD

Inducting the incoming 2001 board of the Camera Club of the Philippines is lifetime member Dr. Felix B. Perlas (left) and outgoing president Dik Trofeo (second from left). The new board members are (from left) Antonio D. Lilles, president; Felice Sta. Maria, vice president, and directors Norlito S. Quimel, Francisco G. Balagtas, Paul C. Yan, Federico M. Ortiz, Emil V. Davocol, Rodolfo M. de Leon, Albert C. Chiu, Raul B. Tangco and Valentino T. Ley.

CHIEF JUSTICE INDUCTS ADBOARD OFFICERS

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr. was guest of honor and inducting officer at the recent induction of the 2001 officers and directors of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard). With Justice Davide were (from left) AdBoard PR and information officer Joselito Yabut, IBC chair Renato Bello, and AdBoard chair Susan Dimacali.

PROKIDS-PETRON CONTRACT SIGNING

Prokids Premium Diapers brings back its free diaper change service as part of the Petron-PNCC's Lakbay Alalay 2001 Motorist Assistance Project. On April 11, 12, 14 and 15, avail of free clean ups at the Prokids Diaper Changing Booth at all participating Petron Gas Stations. Shown signing the Prokids-Petron contract are, from left, Willy Romero, Petron sales executive for special projects; Marlyn D. Palileo, marketing officer for Prokids Premium Diapers, JS Unitrade Merchandising; Henry Azul, Petron Convenience Store coordinator, and Jericho Perez, Petron Lakbay Alalay coordinator.

ROTARY LADIES HOLD BAZAAR

Ongoing is an Easter Bazaar by the Rotary ladies participating at the Asian Presidential Conference until Sunday, April 8, at the Manila Hotel. Meeting on the final arrangements are (seated, from left) overall ladies chair Mely Hechanova, Nita Honorio, City Morales and Mely Zamora. Standing are DGN Rosie Go, Evelyn Marquez, Rose Celis, Linda Estrellado, Nona Ricafort, Lita Gamboa, Bibie Jarin, Cenen Cumagun and Alice Tanco. Bazaar chair is Rucy Bairan, while the treasurer is Lydia Tan. The Bazaar is being held at the Mabuhay Palace of the Manila Hotel.

TAMBULI CALLING

Tambuli Resorts, one of the country's favorite resort chains, has recently renovated and upgraded the facilities of their properties in Mactan and Bohol. Mactan takes pride in the Tambuli Beach club and the Cebu Beach Club, while Bohol boasts of the Blue Sky Sea Resort and the Bohol Beach Club (shown in photo). It is the longest private strip of white sand in Bohol and is also the Philippines' premiere dive area. For information and reservations, call 522-2302 to 03.

'BEYOND' OPENS AT FARMER'S PLAZA

Avid Sales Corporation recently opened "Beyond" at the Farmer's Plaza at Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City. Aside from state-of-the-art audio and video products, computers and cellular phones, "Beyond" also features a gaming room and an Internet lounge. Other Avid Sales Corporation outlets are located at Avid Sony Shop (Makati-Pasong Tamo, SM Megamall, SM City-Cebu, Festival Supermall-Alabang, Manila-UN and Makati-Quad); The AV Center (Bacoor, Balintawak, Ali Mall and Alabang Town Center, Call (Galleria); AiWa Showroom Kalaw and AVSurfer.com, the company's website.

BITS & Clips

Ahead review classes

AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center is now accepting enrollees for its review classes for the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) which start April 16 in different venues in Quezon City, Manila, Alabang, Ortigas and Greenhills. Interested parties may call Ahead at 426-0034 to 36 or visit its main office at 309 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Milo sports clinics

ROBINSONS is hosting a series of mall tours in Imus, Galleria, Manila, Cebu and Bacolod on four Sundays in April highlighting the Milo Summer Sports Clinics. Each mall tour is held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The tours are scheduled on April 8 (Robinsons Imus), April 15 (Robinsons Galleria), April 22 (Robinsons Manila and Cebu), and April 29, (Robinsons Bacolod). Avail of discounts on enrolment fees with purchases of Milo packs at Robinsons.

Arellano alumni reunion

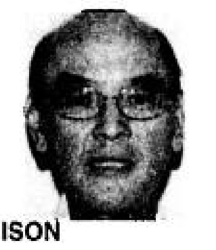
REPRESENTATIVE Martin B. Isidro is guest speaker at the 56th General Alumni Homecoming of the Arellano (Manila North) High School Alumni Association, Inc. on Sunday, April 8 starting at 2 p.m. at the Arellano High School Quadrangle. For further inquiries please contact Taling Javier at 936-1869, Ernie Taca at 731-8611, Avelina Montemayor at 712-4821, and Cesar Tenebro at 292-2020.

Summer photo workshop

CINEMATOGRAPHER/photographer Ariel Reyes will hold a summer photography workshop at the Mary Help of Christians Parish in Better Living, Paranaque on April 16 to May. The workshop is open to all amateur and professional photographers. Registration for all participants will be held at the parish grounds of the Mary Help of Christians Church on Sunday, April 8 at 2 p.m. For inquiries call Seller at 7764249/8243027, or cell. no. 09193564662.

P&G Moms squad

PROCTER & Gamble Phils. (P&GP, will launch New Pampers Baby Dry promo to reward its patrons. A group of mothers, led by Ruby Rodriguez and Sherilyn Reyes, will go around the supermarkets of four selected malls in Metro Manila today, April 7 and on Sunday, April 8 to catch and reward buyers and users of New Pampers Baby Dry. The "Pampers' Moms Squad on Parade" will be held at the Rustan's Makati and SM Megamall today and in Robonsons Galleria and Ever Grand Central on April 8.



SISON

PNCC new chair and CEO

The Board of Directors of the Philippine National Construction Corporation confirmed the designation by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of Luis F. Sison as PNCC chair and CEO. He assumes the post vacated by Renato B. Valdecantos.

Insular lifestyles ongoing

INSULAR Life Assurance Company is currently promoting its insurance and merchant products via a unique product fair dubbed "Insular LifeStyles" at the Glorietta activity center until Sunday, April 8. Insular LifeStyles feature six booths showcasing products catering to different age groups. Various merchants have also set up 14 other booths to promote their own products. The event will also feature a "children's day" today and a "family day" on Sunday, April 8.

Chocolate and 'kakanin' making

THE GOLDEN Treasures Skills and Training Center (GTSTC) conducts a livelihood seminar on chocolate and native kakanin making at the function room of China Pearl Restaurant, 1485 Quezon Avenue near Examiner Street in Quezon City today, April 7. Those interested may coordinate with Jennalyn and Irene Saturno at 951-7837 or 951-4594.

Aussie pro-poor program in Davao

THE PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA Community Assistance Program (Pacap) and its development allies celebrate 14 years of successful operation with a major conference in Davao City on April 19-20. This conference, which will be held at Grand Regal Hotel (formerly Mercure Grand Hotel), is Pacap's second. Since its inception in 1986, Pacap has pursued an interdependent alliance with NGOs and peoples' organizations in supporting community-initiated, economically sustainable, ecologically sound and gender responsive programs.

Hunters 59th anniversary

THE HUNTERS ROTC (HROTC) Association, Inc. will be celebrating its 59th anniversary on Sunday, April 8 at the Amang Rodrigues Hall, Rizal Provincial Capitol Building, Pasig City. Highlight of the affair will be the installation of the new road sign at 10 a.m. renaming Ortigas Avenue Extension to Hunters ROTC Avenue as authorized by the Rizal Provincial Board and the National Historical Commission. Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita will be guest of honor.

Easter cooking with AMC

CELEBRATE Easter Sunday with healthy treats for the whole family as AMC stainless steel cookware holds the cooking demo "Easter Delights" today, April 7, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the AMC head office in Malate. For inquiries, please call 523-2136 or 523-2367 or visit the Healing-AMC head office at the ground floor, Shalimar Building, Pablo Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila. Look for Angie or Sheila.

World Health Day observed

IN CELEBRATION of the World Health Day today, April 7, Go Tong Foundation, Inc., in cooperation with the Pasig Health Department will hold a dental and medical mission at the Ever Gotesco Ortigas Complex parking area from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Beneficiaries of the mission are Barangays Napico and Sta. Lucia in Pasig.

ALL BEAUTY, ALL BRAINS

Zorayda Ruth Andam, 24, won the coveted title of Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2001 at the recently concluded Binibining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant. Zora bested 25 other candidates and garnered several other awards, including Miss Tourism and Miss Talent. Among the many well-wishers of Zora were (from left) Rowena Sanchez, AVP for Energy Food and Drinks Inc., the exclusive distributor of RedBull Supreme Energy Drink; Peter Buytaert, managing director for Agfa Asean; Jun Ortiz, VP for Photokina Marketing Corporation, and Malu Chan, marketing manager for Pilipinas PhotoPlus Marketing, Inc.

ADVOCATES FOR PEACE

A nationwide program dedicated to the promotion of peace and progress through justice and genuine economic programs was launched recently by the Apo Service organization for leadership, friendship and service to the nation. Shown above is Paterno Balinghasay Kintanar, Jr. (standing), Apo Service president, discussing the merits of the Arroyo government's peace initiatives with the NDF and MILF. Ramon "Monet" Castro Ungco (inset), president of the Dr. Frank Reed Horton Chamber of Commerce, lauded the group's peace-advocacy that would redound to the country's economic prosperity.

KONICA NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

Konica's Board of Directors named Fumio Iwai as president and CEO effective April 1. Iwai (extreme left) has had a long association with U-Bix Corporation, Konica's exclusive distributor for copiers, since 1991 when he was then general manager of business machine sales division until his promotion to senior managing director in 1999. Shown with Iwai are Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Yasuharo Imano, champion of the 3rd Konica U-Bix Manila Open, and Bert Bravo, president and CEO of U-Bix Corp.

TOON POWER

Cartoon Network, home of the Powerpuff Girls, Dexter's Laboratory, Johnny Bravo and Cow and Chicken, recently presented their 2001 on- and off-air programs to clients and friends at a party called "Toon Power." The event also featured a special appearance by The Powerpuff Girls and a "Who Wants To Be a Premium-Naire?" contest based on the popular game show of a similar name. Photo shows (from left) Liza Baumgarten, regional sales director, Turner International Asia Pacific; Rowena Alano, marketing manager-consumer incentives, Jollibee Foods Corp.; and Luigi Nunez, executive vice president, Far East Media Consultants, Philippine advertising representatives of Turner International.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

More mentally troubled Filipinos predicted

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE AGE of globalization and competition is taking its toll on the mental health of the nation's workforce.

Filipino workers are being subjected to highly stressful situations such as increased competition, double productivity requirements, displacement, migration, family disruption as well as economic and political conflicts.

In fact, more government offices and private firms are seeking stress management workshops for top management people and ordinary workers. Dr. Connie S. Aleta, head of the government's National Mental Health Program, said they have been conducting an average of three stress management workshops a week.

Dr. Helen Herrman, the World Health Organization's acting regional adviser for mental health, warned during a press briefing in Manila about the negative effects of globalization on the people's mental health.

"If the economic pundits are right, if globalization improves the economy, maybe it will help in the long run. But in the short run, and in the view of many people, globalization will be a big problem to mental health," Herrman said.

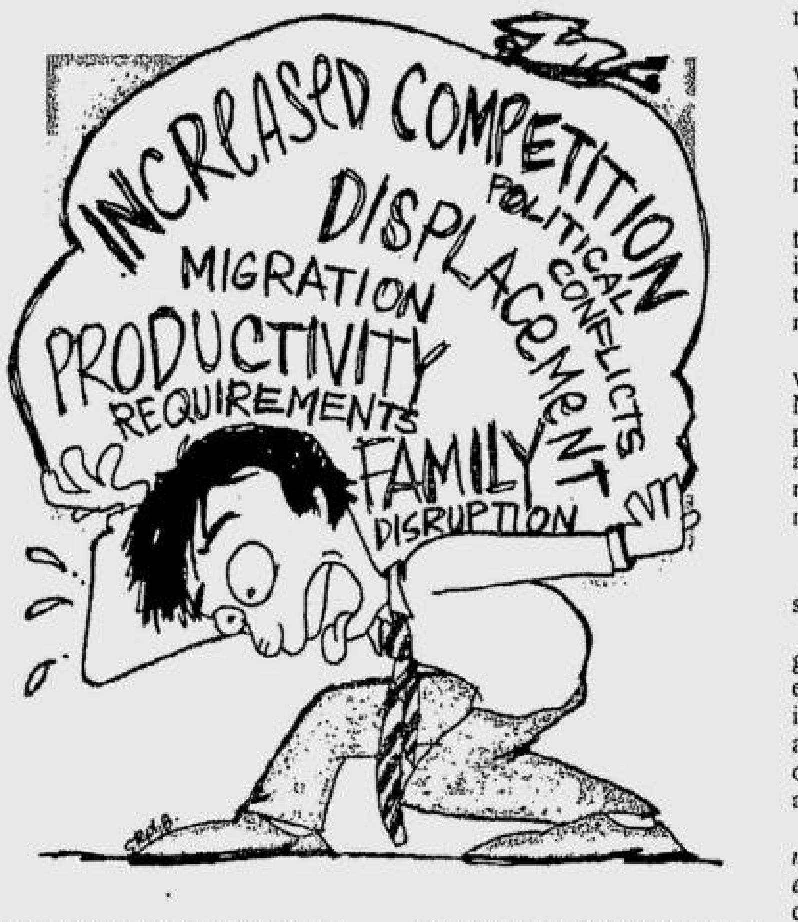
The migration of Filipino workers has also been stressful to the working class.

Aleta predicted that more family relationships would be disrupted as more and more workers migrate. And more disturbing is an observation made by Aleta among Filipino workers abroad who are involved in murder cases: evaluations revealed that mental problems at work were mostly the root cause of the crimes.

Add to this a finding by the Dangerous Drugs Board that more people in the working class are turning to substance abuse. The DDB said 36 percent of drug abusers are workers and employees.

Herrman said people who turn to alcohol or substance abuse increase their likelihood of mental illness. Substance abuse has been identified by the National Mental Health Program as the number one cause of mental illness in the Philippines.

Unfortunately, the country is not fully equipped to handle the magnitude of the problem.



Ill-equipped

According to the Department of Health, five of the country's regions—Ilocos, Southern Tagalog, Northern Mindanao, Central Mindanao, Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao—do not have psychiatric facilities.

Of the 18 DOH regional hospitals and medical centers, nine do not have psychiatric in-patient facilities while two do not offer any psychiatric services at all.

The DOH further disclosed that of the 5,445 available beds for psychiatric in-patients, 4,200 are in the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City, 1,245 are in other regional hospitals and 500 are in a devolved hospital in Trece Martires, Cavite. Except for the NCMH, not one of the 15 DOH hospitals in Metro Manila has a psychiatric in-patient service. Eight of the hospitals have outpatient services.

The scarcity of facilities is not the only burden. There are also very few mental health specialists.

Few psychiatrists

Since 1900, the Philippines produced only a little more than 300 psychiatrists, and 80 percent of them are based in Metro Manila, Aleta disclosed to the INQUIRER.

Neurologist Dr. Leonor Cabral Lim, president of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy, said that there is also a scarcity of neurologists in the country, with only 150 of them now practicing. She reminisced that there were about 50 neurologists 20 years ago.

"About 85 to 90 percent of these neurologists are based in Metro Manila. There's a scarcity of manpower and facilities," Cabral Lim said.

Aleta and Cabral Lim said that apart from the lack of facilities, the lack of incentives for specialists discourages most psychiatrists and neurologists from practicing in the provinces. The economic survival of these specialists, they said, is the number one factor.

"It's not a lucrative job that's why we are suggesting that incentives be evenly distributed in all parts of the country. Right now, all incentives are Metro Manila-based," noted Cabral Lim.

The DOH said it would continue to establish mental health facilities in its hospitals and medical centers, train health workers and strengthen networking with other partners.

Medical practitioners meanwhile will lobby for the enactment of the National Mental Health Policy. The policy aims to promote mental health awareness, protect the rights of the mentally ill and eradicate discrimination against them.

Stigma

The DOH also wants to erase the stigma attached to mental illness.

Cabral Lim said that in her focus group discussion, she found out that even in their own families, mentally ill patients are being discriminated against because of the family's lack of education or ignorance of the ailment.

"Parents or relatives will say, '*ay may sira 'yan,' 'na-nuno 'yan, na-engkanto, pinarusahan 'yan'* (he is crazy, he is being possessed and punished by evil spirits)," she said.

Myths like these should be destroyed, she said.

What most people do not know is that mental and neurological diseases are treatable.

"Some of them don't even know that care is available," she added.

Among the most common mental illnesses are stress-related depressive disorders, alcohol dependence, epilepsy, schizophrenia, genetically-related diseases like Alzheimer's and mental retardation.

There have been major medical advances in medications, particularly in anti-psychotic and anti-depressants, said Herrman.

Medications for schizophrenia that have been developed more recently produce fewer side effects. Anti-depressants, she said, have become less difficult to take and have fewer side effects as well. They have less sedative effect, result to less dryness in the mouth and give patients the ability to continue their normal routine.

Mental health, a neglected aspect of people's health

BY DR. SHIGERU OMI

World Health Organization regional director for the Western Pacific region

WORLD Health Day today focuses on an undervalued and often misunderstood aspect of our health—mental health. The World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners in public health are taking steps to change this perception.

Recent scientific and medical research demonstrates that mental health is a foundation for good health—physical health and mental health are inseparable. However, most of us—governments, public health practitioners and citizens alike—devote less attention and consequently, fewer resources, to mental health. Meanwhile, the suffering caused by mental illness and mental disorders is staggering.

Look around you. One out of five individuals will develop a common mental disorder such as depression or anxiety every year. Two out of every 100 people in our community will develop schizophrenia or manic depression (bipolar disorder) in their lifetime. Two to 3 percent of all families have a member affected by intellectual disability. Other families will feel the impact of having a loved one with dementia or epilepsy. Ten percent of the world's population is harmed by drugs and alcohol.

The 1996 Global Disease Burden Report, co-authored by WHO, World Bank and Harvard University, established the extent of disability related to mental disorders. Five of the 10 leading causes of disability are mental disorders: depression, substance abuse, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression) and obsessive compulsive disorder. Among the other major disablers are heart disease, infectious diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia, road accidents and cancer.

The symptoms of a mental disorder may greatly reduce one's ability to work, study or participate in community life. The disorder could also lead to other health problems and, in some cases, even to suicide. To make matters worse, if one already suffers from a mental disorder, he or she may even be shunned by the community.

A neglected health

Why do we do so little? On the average, the 37 countries and areas in the Western Pacific region devote less than one percent of their health budgets on the treatment and prevention of mental disorders. Regionwide, one out of five individuals who seeks the help of a health care professional suffers from a mental disorder. Of this number, only a fraction is properly diagnosed, and of those who are, few ever get treatment or receive appropriate care.

The future presents even more of a challenge to our mental health. The number of people at risk of developing mental health problems is expanding daily. The number of aged people in the world will more than double by 2025. Consequently, a proportionate increase in the number of cases of dementia will occur. Mega cities will expand, intensifying pressure on poor, migrant populations that live in overcrowded slums. Few will have access to basic health and social services. Anxiety, depression and substance abuse will rise further.

Support for mental health

WHO and its partners in public health must ensure that our most valuable resource—our people's good mental health—is intact. The knowledge, tools and strategies that can help people suffering from mental disorders .regain productive and happy lives, already exist.

Medicines and therapy must be available in community settings. To do this, national governments must devote resources for medication and for training health care workers in mental health to improve diagnosis, treatment and promote awareness of good mental health. Legislation must be drafted and revised to ensure that governments are protecting the rights of individuals with mental disorders, giving them dignified and appropriate care. Families and communities need support to help care for those living with mental disorders and to promote a better understanding of mental disorders. Families also play an important role in detecting the early warning signs of mental disorder.

Positive responses to mental health challenges are emerging in the region. Adults in China are receiving treatment for epilepsy. Children in Cambodia are dealing with stress through play and games. Australian and Malaysian nongovernment organizations and mental health professionals are working with their governments in areas which impact on mental health. The Mongolian government is integrating mental health care into the primary health care system and training more health care workers in psychiatry.

The quality and productivity of our communities depend on our commitment to broaden access to mental health services and promote greater awareness of the importance of mental health. The momentum to respond should not begin and end on World Health Day because mental health matters to everyone, every day of the year.

Breast self-exam for overall health

TODAY'S women are very particular when it comes to caring for their bodies.

Eating healthy, avoiding bad health and nutrition habits and establishing exercise routines are just some of the steps they take in maintaining a healthy body. In their exercise regimen alone, several routines focusing on different parts of the body are used. There are steps to achieve firmer biceps, flatter stomachs, shapelier legs, and the like.

But there is one important part of a woman's body that largely remains ignored: the breasts. For women who put a high premium on good health, it is also important that women have a special routine to keep their breasts healthy.

Breast Self-Examination or BSE is a quick and easy step in knowing more about your breasts. A hand and eye technique by which a woman can examine their breasts, BSE is the easiest and most effective method in keeping yourself attuned to the changes in your breasts.

BSE is also very important in the early detection of breast cancer, the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among the country's female population.

This is why the Department of Health has doubled its efforts in promoting BSE for the early detection of this dreaded disease.

Breast self-examination involves two main steps: looking at your breasts and feeling your breasts for any change from normal.

When feeling your breasts, hold one arm high and use the other hand to feel. Using your fingers, press your breast gently, working from the outer base of the breast area going around towards the nipple. Feel for any unusual lumps or other slight changes. Also, notice the color of the nipple as well as any discharges. If you notice any change from the usual look and feel of your breast, it is best to consult a medical professional.

Knowing every part of your body and the changes that occurs in them can help you detect problems earlier on. And focusing on such important parts as your breasts, you can help in the early detection of a dreaded disease. By doing the BSE regularly at least 10 days after your monthly period, you can contribute to your body's overall health.

Pain during exercise is not good, says study

THE OFT-REPEATED saying, "No pain, no gain" is slowly being replaced by the more apt "If there is pain, there is hardly any gain."

Before, pain was attributed to the maximum exertion of the muscles. Pain comes about when we've fully utilized our body. But recent developments in the study of human physiology reveal that pain is the body's way of saying there is something wrong.

Muscle or joint pain could be attributed to a simple strain or it could be due to a more serious illness, such as arthritis, osteoporosis or even a herniated disc.

When pain does occur, there are a number of ways the discomfort and the ache could be relieved. One of the more effective methods of painrelief is the cold patch treatment, a topical analgesic that relieves muscle pain caused by a strenuous physical exertion, specially sports-related activities.

The cold patch treatment works best on bruises, sprains, muscular pains, muscular fatigue, lumbago, stiff shoulders and backache. There are a number of treatments for minor aches and pains but what makes the topical analgesic cold patch more effective than most is that it can be easily applied and can be as easily removed.

Unlike other plasters that emit heat, cold patch plasters provide a cooling sensation that soothes the slightly burning sensation of a muscle or joint pain and it helps regulate the flow of blood in the injured area.

Hisamitsu, maker of Salonpas, recently came up with a water-containing patch for external pain relief and the product is now available in the market.

COMMON MENTAL DISORDERS

Schizophrenia

What is it? Schizophrenia is characterized by profound disruption in thinking and feelings, affecting language, thought, perception and sense of self. It often includes psychotic experiences such as hearing voices or holding fixed abnormal beliefs, known as delusions.

How many suffer? About 45 million people worldwide above the age of 18 suffer from schizophrenia at some point in their lives. It begins at a young age and can impair functioning, causing the loss of an acquired ability like not being able to gain one's own livelihood or disruption of studies.

What can be done? Treatments are both of a biological nature (e.g. medication) as well as psychosocial (e.g. psycho education of the family and rehabilitation). Psychosocial rehabilitation has made considerable strides and has enabled patients to find a place in the workforce, in their families and communities. Early treatment is essential for better recovery.

Depressive Disorders

What are they? Depressed mood and loss of interest and pleasure characterize these disorders. If they alternate with exaggerated elation or irritability, they are known as bipolar disorders (one pole, depressed; another pole, elated or manic). Their severity, the symptoms that often accompany the depressed mood and the duration of the disorder differentiate them from normal mood changes that are part of life.

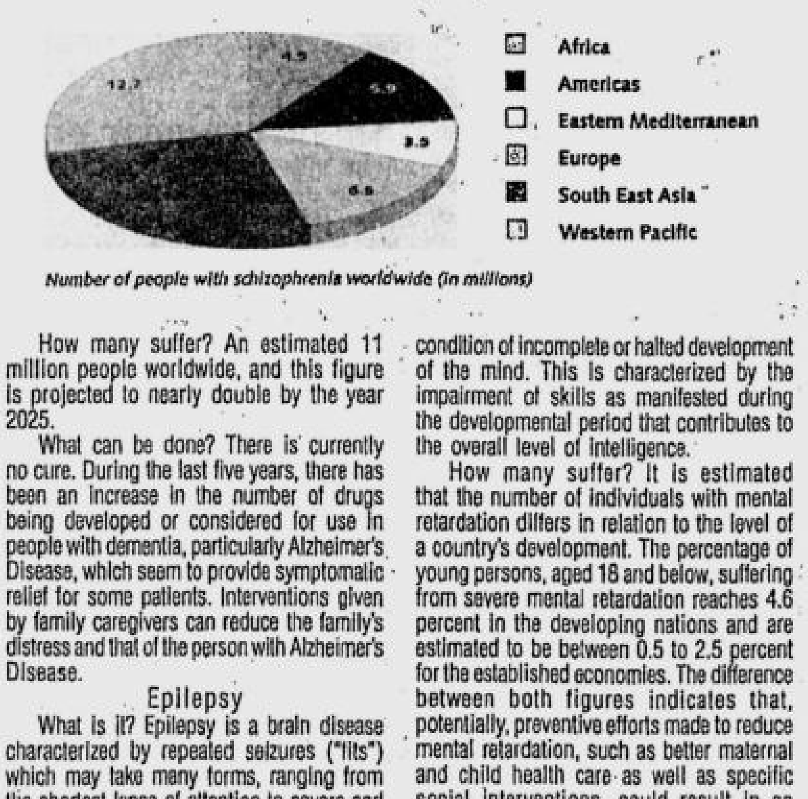
The causes of these disorders vary. There are psychosocial risk factors that influence the onset and persistence of the depressive episodes as well as different biological factors.

How many suffer? Studies show that during a single year, one out of 7 adult persons in the United States, seven 7 in Brazil, almost 10 percent in Germany and 4.2 percent in Turkey have a mood disorder. In the United States, 5 percent of children aged 9-17 years were found to have depression, a disorder thought to spare youths and adolescents. Ignoring this reality can result in suicide.

What can be done? Despite the existence of solutions, the majority of people with depression do not receive adequate treatment. There are millions of people in the world affected by the disorder whose suffering and disability is prolonged because their condition goes undetected or is not treated well. A reluctance to speak about one's feelings or poorly trained medical personnel can be at the root of this.

Alzheimer's Disease

What is it? Alzheimer's Disease is a form of dementia that destroys brain cells, disrupting the transmitters carrying messages to the brain particularly those responsible for storing memories. It is one of the most common types of dementia worldwide and accounts for 50 to 60 percent of all cases. Dementia is a progressive degenerative brain syndrome that affects memory, thinking, behavior and emotion. Symptoms may include a loss of memory, difficulty in finding the right words or understanding what people are saying, difficulty in performing previously routine tasks, and personality and mood changes.



Number of people with schizophrenia worldwide (in millions)

How many suffer? An estimated 11 million people worldwide, and this figure is projected to nearly double by the year 2025.

What can be done? There is currently no cure. During the last five years, there has been an increase in the number of drugs being developed or considered for use in people with dementia, particularly Alzheimer's Disease, which seem to provide symptomatic relief for some patients. Interventions given by family caregivers can reduce the family's distress and that of the person with Alzheimer's Disease.

Epilepsy

What is it? Epilepsy is a brain disease characterized by repeated seizures ("fits") which may take many forms, ranging from the shortest lapse of attention to severe and frequent convulsion. The causes are multiple, like trauma to the brain, infections such as encephalitis, parasites, alcohol or other toxic substances. In half of the cases, the causes remain unknown.

How many suffer? An estimated 45 million people of all ages around the world. The number of people with epilepsy is more than five times higher in developing countries than in developed countries. A vast majority of those suffering remain untreated.

What can be done? Solutions exist so that up to 70 percent of newly diagnosed cases can be successfully treated with anti-epileptic medication. After two to five seizure-free years, the medication may be gradually withdrawn in 60 to 70 percent of the cases. Yet the health care system in many places has failed to recognize or find those with epilepsy and in some cases has failed to provide the right treatment to those it has recognized.

Mental retardation

What is it? The World Health Organization defines mental retardation as a condition of incomplete or halted development of the mind. This is characterized by the impairment of skills as manifested during the developmental period that contributes to the overall level of intelligence.

How many suffer? It is estimated that the number of individuals with mental retardation differs in relation to the level of a country's development. The percentage of young persons, aged 18 and below, suffering from severe mental retardation reaches 4.6 percent in the developing nations and are estimated to be between 0.5 to 2.5 percent for the established economies. The difference between both figures indicates that, potentially, preventive efforts made to reduce mental retardation, such as better maternal and child health care as well as specific social interventions, could result in an overall decrease of mental retardation worldwide.

What can be done? A positive attitude coupled by appropriate educational and vocational programs can help those with mental retardation to adjust and succeed by performing at their highest level. To achieve such goals, services need to be provided and self help groups of both families and individuals need to be fostered. The empowerment of parents could accelerate the formulation of healthy policies, programs and services.

Alcohol dependence

What is it? A mental disorder characterized by symptoms that could include a strong and persistent desire to drink despite harmful consequences, inability to control drinking, a higher priority given to alcohol consumption than to other activities and obligations, tolerance to alcohol and a physical withdrawal reaction when alcohol use is abruptly discontinued.

Alcohol can trigger health problems in a large number of problem drinkers (alcohol dependent or not), including accidents and injuries, heart disease, cancer, liver disease and alcohol psychosis. Alcohol is also related to social problems including crime, violence, marital breakdown, poor school performance, high rates of work absenteeism, suicide and financial debt.

How many suffer? There are an estimated 140 million alcohol dependents in the world, but there are over 400 million people who drink excessively and who can cause accidents, injuries, suffering and death.

What can be done? It is very hard to determine exactly when a person has become dependent on alcohol and by that time a range of problems may have already happened to the individual and others. As a result, assessing levels of alcohol consumption is the most effective way to identify problem drinkers early. For those at risk, brief interventions of only five minutes can lead to a 25 percent reduction in alcohol consumption, preventing progression to more severe problems, including alcohol dependence.

Treatment of alcohol dependence and withdrawal can be effectively carried out in community settings for most cases. Voluntary mutual help organizations can also play a large role in supporting recovery from alcohol dependence. However, measures aimed only at treating those who are dependent are not enough. Effective alcohol control policies are also needed.

(World Health Organization)

Heart experts advise preventive strategies

BY THE CHARTER BUREAU

HOW can you prevent heart disease, feel better and live longer?

Heed the heart experts' simple advice: You are the best person to identify your personal risk factors for heart disease. Modify your lifestyle so as to eliminate these risk factors that include activity, diet, use of tobacco products, and stress. You make the daily choices and small decisions that will either improve or wreck your health

According to Doctors Petrarch Bravo, Prospil Calumpiano and Roberto Raymundo, who are all practising heart specialists at the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital, many heart ailments and its complications such as heart attack or heart failure can be prevented if a serious and consistent effort to improve one's lifestyle habits is made. The three cardiologists, who are all active members of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology, recommend the following:

Activity—Sedentary living is a major risk factor for heart diseases. Exercise will strengthen your heart muscle, make you feel more energetic, improve your circulation, reduce stress, help you maintain a positive mental attitude, and enhance your overall quality of life.

- Gradually build up your exercise and activity based on your doctor's advice. A stress test or treadmill exercise test may be necessary to determine the level of exercise one can tolerate.
- Brisk walking is a good exercise especially for beginners. Walking for at least 3 days a week, on alternate days, for 30 minutes (which can be split to twice daily morning and evening) improves heart conditioning.
- Check your pulse at rest, during and after exercise. Your pulse should not increase more than 50 percent above your resting heart rate during exercise. While exercising, you should always be able to carry on a conversation. If you can't do this or are gasping for breath, you're exercising too much, more than your heart can tolerate.

Food Choices—Follow the following dietary recommendations and you'll never go wrong:

- Always eat moderate-size portions.
- Use less fat in cooking and in preparing food preparations such as salads and appetizers. Cut down on the mayonnaise and rich creamy dressings.
- Limit salt and sodium mildly if you have high blood pressure. Avoid table sources of salt but remember that excessive or strict salt restriction is also bad.
- Eat more grains, cereals and fiber.

Smoking—Smoking constricts the coronary arteries, causing progressive blockage of the arteries called atherosclerosis and decreasing the blood flow to the heart muscle. One of the best decisions a smoker can make in his lifetime is to quit smoking for good. This is, no doubt, a difficult decision to make because the nicotine in tobacco is an addictive substance. But there are now pills and patches that can help one lick the nicotine addiction, provided the smoker makes the firm commitment to kick the habit. The nicotine pills and patches can help, but it can't be effective unless a smoker is really decided and fully cooperative.

Weight Reduction—Obesity is another major risk factor, which is usually associated with the development of high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels and diabetes. One should strive to attain one's ideal body weight (IBW) based on one's height. The IBW, in kilos, may be computed by subtracting 100 from one's height in centimeters. The height in centimeters is the height in inches multiplied by 2.54. To get the IBW in pounds, multiply the IBW in kilos by 2.2. Asians should deduct 10 percent from the computed IBW since the Asian body frame is generally smaller than Caucasians.

Although a lot of pills and programs are currently being marketed to help reduce weight, diet and exercise are still the mainstay in any successful weight reduction strategy. Any program, which promotes "pills alone without diet or exercise," is not medically sound and likely to lead to the so-called "yo-yo" or up-and-down pitfall of weight reduction.

Stress Management—Stress is an inevitable part of daily life. Everyone, regardless of education, economic status and profession, is exposed to countless stressful situations daily. Better than avoiding stress, one can effectively combat stress by learning to deal with it, facing it head-on and resolving it without causing havoc to one's heart and nerves. Stress management is a skill everyone can learn. Discipline, healthy mental attitude, autosuggestion and visualization, and a strong Christian faith are essential qualities of a stress-proof individual.

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Theraphies, Epidemiology and Risk-management. It is a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation that evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle changes, on heart, lung and other diseases. For comments and inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Firm sets landmark heart study

INGELHEIM, Germany—Boehringer Ingelheim has announced plans for one of the largest, most ambitious clinical studies to investigate the role of an angiotensin II receptor blocker in preventing stroke, myocardial infarction and cardiovascular death.

Called Ongoing Telmisartan Alone and in combination with Ramipril Global Endpont Trial, or Ontarget, the project will involve some 28,000 patients from about 700 sites worldwide for an observation period of up to five years.

"Ontarget will potentially have a major impact on disease prevention, providing physicians with new therapeutic options to prevent cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Andreas Barner, member of the Boehringer Ingelheim board of directors, responsible for research, development and medicine.

Ontarget is expected to provide data on an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) comparable in scope to the ramipril produced by the Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation trial in 1999. The HOPE trial found that ramipril reduces the combined risk of stroke, myocardial infarction and cardiovascular death by 22 percent.

Efficacy assessment

Ontarget will assess the efficacy of using the receptor blocker Micardis (telmisartan) alone, and in combination with the angiotensin coverting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor ramipril. The study will compare these to the efficacy of ramipril alone. The objectives include the reduction of risk of cardiovascular death, stroke, myocardial infarction and hospitalization for congestive heart failure (CHF).

Said Ontarget lead investigator Prof. Salim Yusuf of Hamilton, Canada: "While ramipril has been shown to be important in the prevention of cardiovascular events, angiotensin receptor blockers such as Micardis may be better tolerated and may provide similar benefits as already demonstrated with ramipril. However, it is important to confirm this in a prospective large trial, which the Ontarget study will do."

"More exciting perhaps is the idea that combination therapy of an angiotensin receptor blocker, when added to an ACE inhibitor, will offer a greater degree of cardiovascular protection than an ACE inhibitor alone. Both these hypotheses will be tested in this large international study of approximately 28,000 patients in 35 countries."

Ontarget is a multicenter, double-blind, randomized global trial that will involve patients from Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America, and South Africa. Patients will be divided into three treatment groups. One group will receive Micardis daily, another group will receive ramipril daily, and the third group will receive the combination of Micardis plus ramipril daily. Ramipril will be supplied by Aventis and King Pharmaceuticals for the United States.

International group

As Ontarget will potentially have a major impact on disease prevention, an international group of highly reputed scientists is already involved in the protocol and the conduct of the trial. These are Craig Anderson, New Zealand; Peter Meredith, United Kingdom; Roland Schmieder, Germany; Peter Sleight, UK; Thomas Unger, Germany; Michael Weber, United States; and Salim Yusuf, Canada.

Filipino cardiologists will be asked to take part in the study to contribute a total of 400 patients.

Patient enrolment will begin in the second half of 2001, with the study being completed in 2006. Patients in the study will be at least 55 years old with history of coronary artery disease, stroke, peripheral vascular disease or diabetes, with at least one other cardiovascular risk factor, including hypertension, elevated total cholesterol, low HDL-cholesterol levels, cigarette smoking or microalbuminuria, an imbalance of serum proteins in the urine.

Among leading firms

The Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies, with headquarters in Ingelheim, Germany, is one of the 20 leading pharmaceutical firms in the world. It reported revenues of almost DEM 10 billion in 1999.

Boehringer Ingelheim has some 140 affiliated companies worldwide. The focus is on the human pharmaceutical as well as on the animal health business. The human pharmaceutical business, which is responsible for 92 percent of sales, includes mainly prescription medicines and products for consumer health care, but also chemicals and biopharmaceuticals for industrial customers.

More information on Boehringer Ingelheim is available at the website www.boehringer-ingelheim.com and www.ontarget-micardis.com.

PLG News & Views

Furor over Flores

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MY article debunking Filipino myths, such as Agapito Flores being the alleged inventor of the fluorescent lamp (Dec. 30, 2000) provoked a storm of reactions, which persist up to this day. I am delighted at the pains some readers took in providing evidence for and against this position. Let us look at some comments:

From Mariano Dumlao, Philippine International School, Dammam, Saudi Arabia [mdumlaoao42@yahoo.com] comes this request:

It's good that you have debunked the supposed invention of the fluorescent lamp and the lunar rover by Filipinos as myths. I suggest that you also write something on the myth about deuterium abounding in Sulu, which some hopeless romantics say would make the Philippines a world power. Maybe you could also write about Dingle's car engine that supposedly runs on water, or mainly on water. More than 20 years had passed since Dingle made his "invention" public but, as I understand, it had never been patented because of his refusal to have it inspected. His reason is that he fears it would be pirated by big companies.

Please don't get tired exposing these myths because it is so embarrassing to hear our *kababayan* boast about these falsehoods in front of other nations. This is no different from the boast that the Philippines is rich in natural resources, when in fact we have less than 150, 000 hectares of virgin forest left. And this figure was true in 1998—it could be less by now.

The boastfulness (or dreaming) on our part stems partly from the production of poorly written textbooks on science and technology. Why doesn't the DECS show the textbooks to the relevant departments in our prestigious universities first for comment before publishing them?

Your suggestions are good ones, and I have made some research on Dingle's invention and the deuterium in the Sulu Sea, but there is not much data, which are validated. Thus, at this point, I cannot devote a whole column on them. If possible, I would like to hear from readers who have creditable information (from journals, academic conference results, etc.) about these. As for the textbook mess, the DECS has made efforts to ask university professors to comment on these books, but I am not sure how thoroughly the text is actually scrutinized before it goes to print. I do hope that serious efforts will be made regarding this matter.

* * *

From Wilson Garcia, National Institute of Physics, College of Science, UP Diliman [wilson@nip.upd.edu.ph] comes this suggestion:

I have always found that our science textbooks (including those by the DOST) credit the invention of the fluorescent lamp to a Filipino with the last name of "Flores." I suppose that it is part of the myth that the term "fluorescent" or "fluorescence" came from "Flores." As far as I know, the fluorescent light was invented by Nikolai Tesla. If not, he contributed greatly toward its invention.

I agree with you on this. The books I have consulted on Tesla say that he improved on Edison's model. Rosauro Mariano [rozzmariano @edsamail.com.ph] offers the following information:

Please read pages 101 and 147 of "The Man Who Invented the 20th Century" by Robert Lomas. This is a biography of Nikola Tesla, the real father of radio and radar, who also conceptualized the use of alternating current at the time of Thomas Edison. Tesla also lighted 200 bulbs 25 miles away from the source by means of antenna (see the British Encyclopedia). Also, he made an earthquake machine, and estimated that the pulse of the earth (for about a pulse per second) was comparable to Nasa's 7.2 measurement. As for yogis, they levitate at the delta level of their brains (7 pulses per second).

I read that you are also a psychologist. Do you think Carl Jung was right in believing in astrology and I-Ching as guides? Also, do you think Dingle truly developed his water-powered engine or is it just a hoax? Lastly, what is the name of the inventor of the perpetual machine, who after demonstrating it to the public, was murdered at his lab?

Thank you for the information on Tesla. As for Jung, he developed a deep belief in mysticism which actually guided him in the development of his psychology—especially with concepts like anima, collective unconscious, and so on. However, scientists do not believe in astrology (which is termed a pseudo-science). As for the I-Ching, some clinical psychologists use this to another way to access the unconscious, much like the Rorschach Test (the latter, of course, has been validated more, and is considered one of the standard tests). As for Dingle and his engine, please read my comments above. And for perpetual motion machines, none so far have been invented. I would appreciate it if any reader can supply valid information on the alleged murdered inventor.

Incidentally, two other readers, Edmundo Basitas [edmundo_basitas @yahoo.com] and Von Lyonell Rana of Los Angeles, California [iackol224@yahoo.com] also request for information on the water-powered engine. The former would like to know the principles about this concept, plus the pros and cons of its use. The latter would like to verify that the Filipino inventor sold his invention to a Taiwanese firm for a huge amount, and would like to know why the government is not doing anything about this.

* * *

Two readers believe that Flores was indeed the one who invented the fluorescent lamp. Gil Fernandez of 138 White Birch Road, Springfield, Illinois 627077 writes:

In the List of Inventors about Lightbulbs, Lighting and Lamps—Invention and History, with Mary Bellis, it definitely says that Agapito Flores of the Philippines invented the modern fluorescent lamp we use today. This is reflected on page 3 of 7 on the attached article. I did not find any information that says Edison had done any work on the improvement of the lamp. What is interesting is that I found on page 1 of 7 that the original inventor of the incandescent lamp was not Edison. The following sentences are quoted verbatim: "In 1820, Warren Dela Rue made the first known attempt to produce an incandescent light bulb. A good example is the case of Henry Woodward of Toronto, who along with Matthew Evans patented the light bulb in 1875. Unfortunately, the two entrepreneurs could not raise the financing to commercialize their invention, and an enterprising American by the name of Thomas Edison, who had been working on the same idea, bought the rights to their patent. Capital was not a problem for Edison: he had the backing of a syndicate of industrial interest with $50, 000 to invest—a sizeable sum at the time. Edison successfully demonstrated the light bulb in 1879, and as they say, the rest is history. "

As for the case of the fluorescent lamp: "Edmund Germer invented a high-pressure vapor lamp, his development of the fluorescent lamp and the high-pressure mercury vapor lamp allowed for more economical lighting with less heat. The modern fluorescent lamp we use today was invented by Agapito Flores of the Philippines."

The relevant website is:

http://inventors.about.com/science/inventors/library/inventors.bllight.htm.

Jorge Ballena of 1217 Texada St., Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3B SS4, [jballena@sprint.ca] also cites the same website in his message:

Please refer to the website [above] regarding Flores and the lamp. My father is a retired GE industrial mechanic. He knows a lot about the history and manufacture of incandescent and fluorescent lamps. I remember him telling me that it was Flores who invented the modern fluorescent lamp. While he was in GE, my dad used to make multicolored fluorescent lamps using a combination of other gases during the Christmas season as part of the decorations.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to provide a website reference source. The website above does list Flores as the inventor of the modern lamp, but after consultation with my colleagues in the academic community, I still stand by the contention that unless further evidence (not websites, but academic journals, conference proceedings, patents, etc.) is presented, Flores cannot be credited with the invention of the fluorescent lamp. If other readers have other information for and against this position, I would appreciate it if you would drop me a line.

The case of the ascending paralysis

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, M.D.

MEDICAL FILES

LITA Divinagracia had everything going for her. She had a successful nursing career, enjoying the respect of her colleagues. She was dean of nursing in one of the top universities. Her leadership and professional competence earned her the esteem of her colleagues; and she was regarded by many as the dean of all deans.

Lita's husband Romy is one of the top heart and lung specialists in the country; a very successful clinician and academician, to say the least. Eldest daughter Gale is an accomplished nurse, following her mom's footsteps; son Glenn is a well-admired physical therapist practicing in the United States; youngest child John-Paul is earning his stripes in banking at a relatively fast pace.

At 57, there was really nothing more that Lita could ask for. She had a happy loving family, beautiful home, rewarding career and all the trimmings of a good life. It was like enjoying paradise on earth. Every day, before she went to bed, she thanked God for the countless blessings she and her family have received. And every day, the bountiful blessings multiplied; or so it seemed until sometime in June a couple of years ago, when even in paradise, a problem surfaced.

It was one of Lita's hectic months. As dean, she had an unusual load of problems in the college she had to iron out. There was an important conference in London she needed to attend. She promised Romy she would join him in his medical meeting in Milan. She assured Glenn she would pass by Maryland to visit his family after the London meeting. A week of sleepless nights in Manila, then a week in Milan, another week in London and last week of June in Maryland. Tough itinerary, but it should be fun, Lita thought.

A week before the trip, she had a nasty cough and sore throat. Romy gave her some antibiotics and she felt better. While in Milan, she enjoyed the first three days, joining the side-trips to Venice, Pisa, Turin and the other tourist spots near Milan. The rest of the week, she felt some malaise and had to beg off from the group's planned tours.

The vague indescribable feeling of "just not feeling well" persisted during the next two weeks in London and Maryland. It must be the jet lag and lack of sleep, Lita diagnosed herself.

A few days after she went home to Manila, she felt some weakness of the left leg and difficulty in standing and walking. She consulted a neurologist who assessed the findings initially as nonspecific and might just be secondary to fatigue, or some postmenopausal hormonal imbalance.

"But, doc, it's gotta be more than that. I can't describe what I have; I don't know what it's due to; but I know it's not normal," Lita insisted. A couple of days later, the weakness progressed and she could no longer move both her lower extremities, more pronounced on the left. Lita felt that the paralysis was progressively going up her body and getting worse every day. Her neurologist advised immediate confinement.

"Lisa, your clinical picture was quite vague at the start; but it's now quite clear. It looks like you have Guillain-Barre Syndrome or GBS," her neurologist said.

Did she hear it right that she had GBS, Lita asked herself. She knew GBS too well. They have handled a lot of cases of GBS before. Some got well, but some were just not lucky. It could have a pretty rough course, and the complications could be serious and fatal. It couldn't be GBS. The sense of denial in Lita was there initially. Even nurses and doctors are not immune from a strong sense of denial once confronted with a serious disease. And GBS is one disease difficult to accept.

Guillain-Barre Syndrome is an acute form of polyneuropathy or nerve disease that produces rapidly worsening muscle weakness, sometimes leading to paralysis. It is caused by an autoimmune reaction, which means that the body's immune system attacks its own tissues, the myelin sheath lining of the nerves in the case of GBS. In the majority of cases, symptoms follow a few days to a few weeks after a mild infection, surgery, or a simple immunization.

The initial symptoms of GBS are usually weakness, tingling and loss of sensation in both legs, which progresses upward to the arms. Weakness is the most prominent symptom and may even become severe enough to involve the muscles responsible for breathing, which would require assistance with a mechanical respirator since the affected individual may not be able to breathe on her own. In about 10 percent of cases, the facial and swallowing muscles may also be involved necessitating tube feeding.

Laboratory tests are not too specific in diagnosing GBS. The disease is recognized more from its characteristic pattern of symptoms. Analysis of the cerebrospinal fluid (obtained by tapping the spinal column at the back), electromyography, nerve conduction studies, and blood tests are requested to exclude other possible causes of the weakness.

Treatment consists of early administration of immunoglobulin to stop the body from inflicting further harm on its own tissues. In modern centers, plasmapheresis is done to filter out toxic substances in the blood. Steroids, which used to be popularly used in GBS, are no longer recommended because they have no proven benefit and may even do more harm than good.

Lita stayed in the hospital for 20 days. She was discharged in stable condition but still paralyzed from waist down. Lita and Romy had to reverse roles. Lita, the nurse, now had to be nursed; and Romy dutifully performed that role with such tender loving care no one could have possibly matched. Glenn took a vacation to personally supervise her mom's physical therapy.

It was a big test for Lita's faith and determination. She had fought many tough battles before; but this was different and this was no doubt the toughest. The whole family and close friends motivated Lita to persevere and cheered her as she progressed slowly every day. The slightest improvement in her leg muscles was enough cause for celebration. But even days when she felt she was not getting any better only strengthened her resolve to become normal again. Each day, Lita promised herself she would be able to walk again. No matter what and how long it took.

It's been almost two years now since that vacation in Milan, when Lita had her initial symptoms of GBS. Lita sipped her tea after dinner during one of the college reunion parties. And as the band started playing a boogie number, Romy stood up and asked her to dance. She graciously consented and they danced. They were a graceful couple on the floor, just like when they first danced some 30 plus years ago.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of the disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601 Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila; or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

SciScope

International group names RP envoy

THE FEDERATION of Integrated Medicine based in the United Kingdom, headed by Sir F.R. Jason Winters, KGSJ, has appointed Dr. Josef de Ubaldo as its ambassador in the Philippines. Winters, once a terminal cancer victim, was knighted by Prince Charles after his discovery of a herbal remedy which caused his cancer to regress. The multiawarded Ubaldo is the founder of the Institute of Woundology and Healing, which caters to emotionally and mentally depressed people. He has written several books on holistic healing, the fourth of which will be launched on April 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel under the auspices of Grand Post International (Philippines) Inc. Titled "Perspectives on Natural Health: An Anthology of Holistic Medicine," the book is a collection of research papers, articles, speeches and lectures for the last five years.

Seed congress set April 17-26

A NATIONAL workshop-conference on seed systems or plant genetic resources to backstop sustainable agriculture and agroforestry will be held on April 17-26 in Lahug, Cebu City. Scientists, farmers and conservation-minded development workers are expected to attend the "National Congress on Local Seed Systems for Genetic Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture." Apart from the discussions, field trips to farms and community-based agroforestry management projects will be held in Negros Occidental and Oriental as well as in Cebu. An exhibit-fair highlighting different approaches in seed conservation and crop improvement and use of indigenous planting materials will also be presented.

TREATING HIS GLOBE HANDYPHONE AS A TOOL OF THE TRADE

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Eugene Go
Group Product Manager,
Dumex Philippines, Inc.
Corporate Plan Subscriber
International Roamer
GlobeXplore and WAP user

NOKIA
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Calling...
Print supplier
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Eugene Go always aims for the best. As a marketing practitioner, his ultimate goal is to be a winner in whatever playing field he participates in. That is why even in his choice of mobile phone service, he wants to be with the leader. "Admittedly, **Globe is the most popular choice.** It offers **a lot of dynamic services.** Even it's subscriber-base is growing faster than competition—making every Tom, Dick and Harry equipped with one," he reveals.

He believes that **Globe's extensive services make it a business tool.** He explains further "Personally, it's not a perk but **a tool of the trade.** I always use it for **calling suppliers, agencies and account executives** to follow up on pending work items—**even while on the road.** This makes **my time more productive.**"

A self-confessed Broadway fan exemplified by his "Fallen" ringtone, Eugene recounts, "When I go **around Asia** on business trips, I bring my phone with me. All I have to do is request for **International Roaming activation.** And I can say that even out of the country, I'm still **very happy with the service.**"

Aside from being impressed with the network's ability to manage its increasing number of customers, Eugene admires the **competent corporate sales management committed to improve communication technology.** He declares, "It's definitely a **winning product** with the way it **keeps on raising the bar.**"

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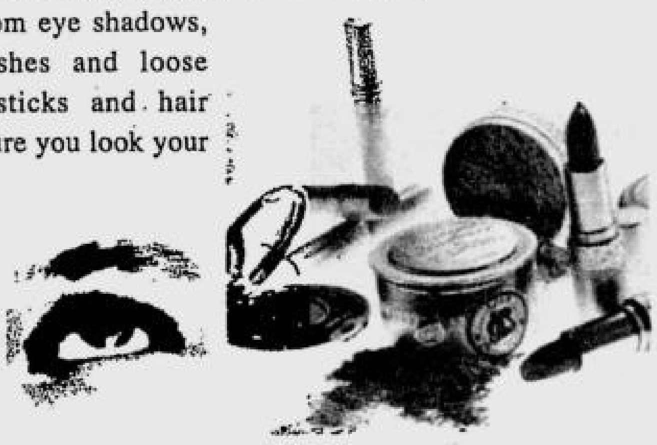
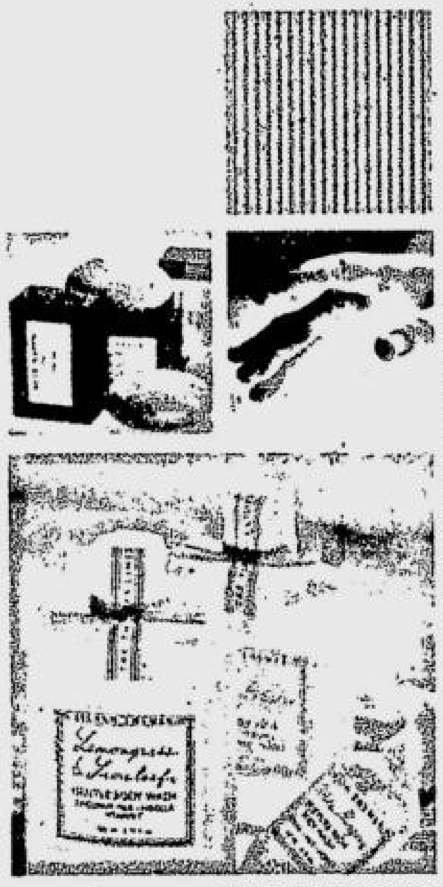
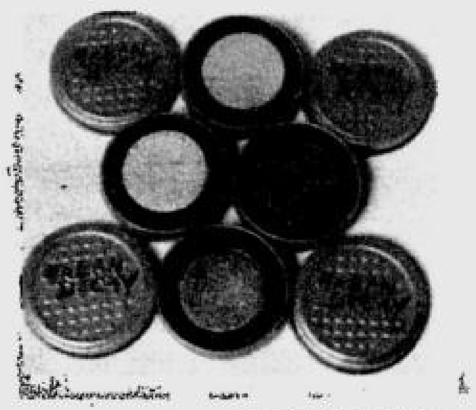
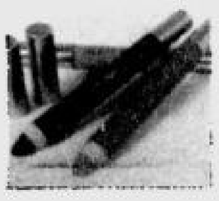
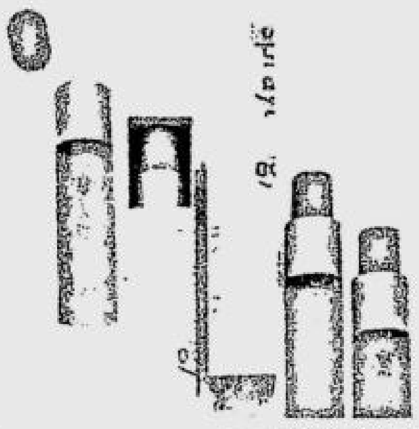




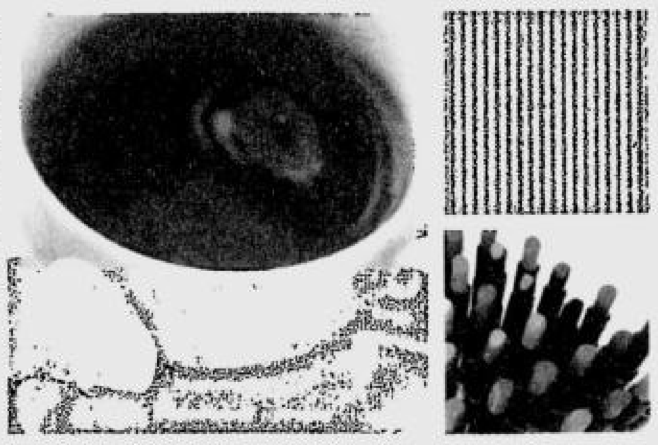
Release yourself from the tension of life at our treatment rooms. There, we pamper you inside out with the therapeutic touch of masseurs and masseuses. Meanwhile, our oils, lotions, soaps and skin care products make sure you enjoy the same VIP treatment at home.

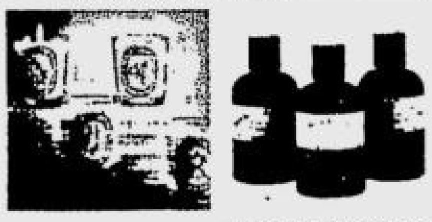






Nourish yourself with flavors that keep you feeling at your prime. Enjoy the spice of life with flavored lip lubes and homeopathic sprays specifically dedicated to your taste. Visit the tea bar to sample refreshing beverages and savory entrees in a truly relaxing atmosphere.





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A sanctuary where your body's total well-being and inner serenity reside.
Where personal attention to the individual is as important as the
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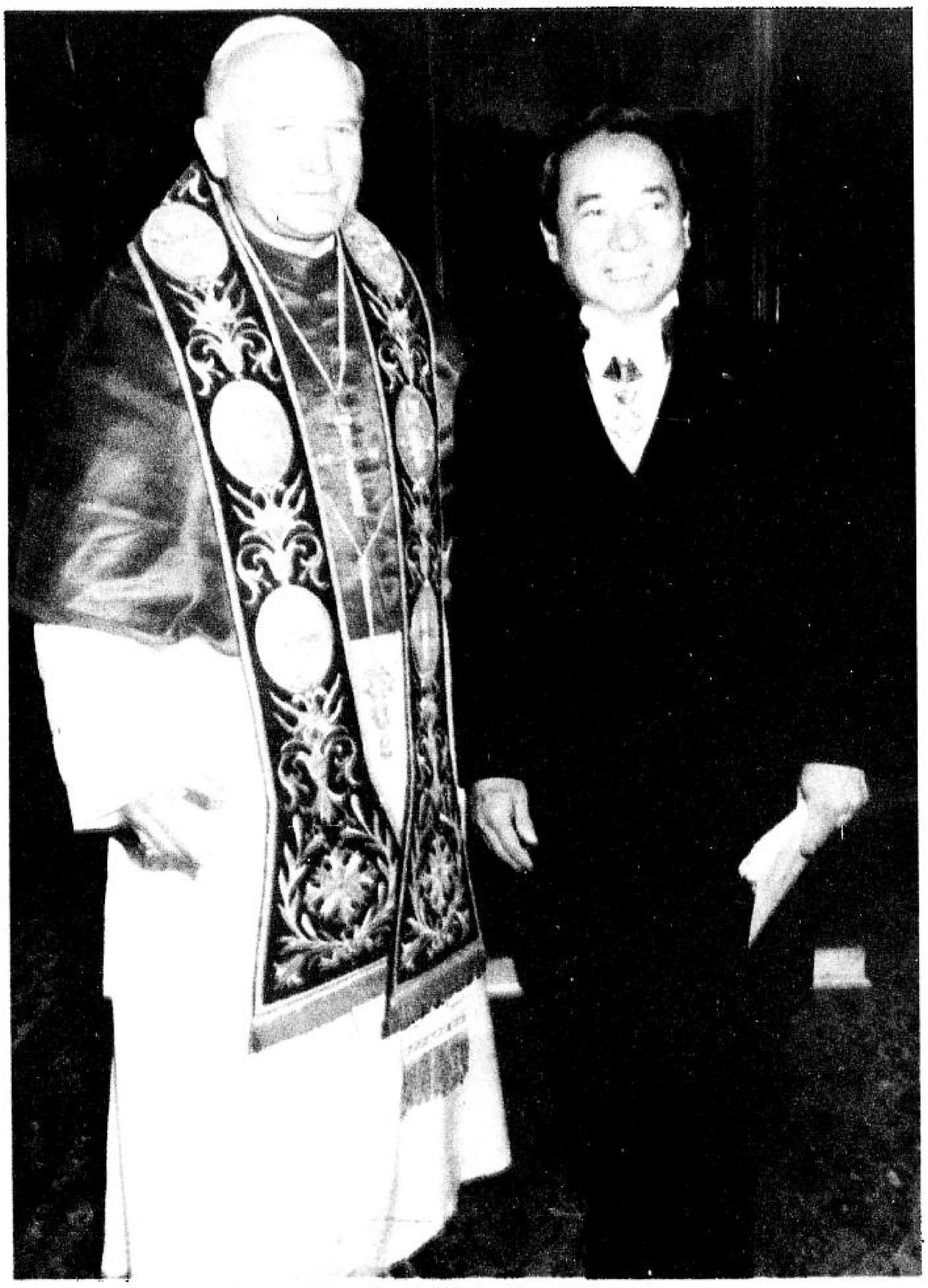
Rustan's

MAKATI



HIS Holiness John Paul II with the former Ambassador to the Holy See, Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.

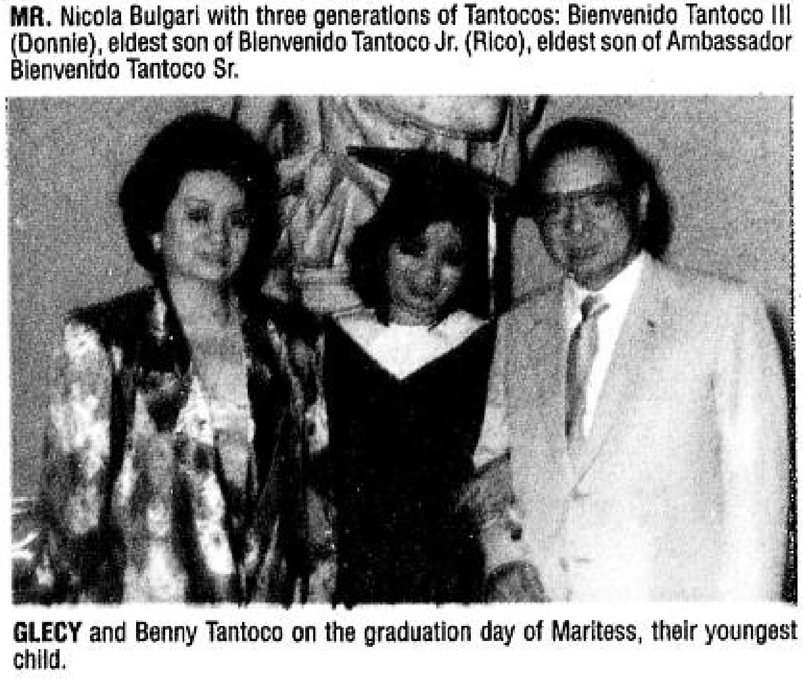
THE TANTOCO family with the founder of Starbucks Coffee, Mr. Howard Schultz (seated, 2nd from left) and EVP for Starnucks, Howard Behar.

CELEBRATING his 78th birthday with daughter, Nedy, and close friends, Criselda Fernandez, Tony Floirendo, Offie Recto and DJ Lopez

THE DAY the Ambassador presented his credentials at the Vatican. From left are Maritess, Merle, Nedy, Benny, Glecy, Rico, Menchu and Marilen.

AMBASSADOR Tantoco with Senator Loren Legarda and Tony Floirendo

MR. Nicola Bulgari with three generations of Tantocos: Bienvenido Tantoco III (Donnie), eldest son of Bienvenido Tantoco Jr. (Rico), eldest son of Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.



GLECY and Benny Tantoco on the graduation day of Maritess, their youngest child.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Ambassador!

TODAY is a special day. It is also doubly significant. The former Ambassador to the Holy See, **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.**, celebrates his 80th birthday and the **Rustan's Group of Companies** celebrates its 50th anniversary. Both are golden events worthy of mention and tribute. It is noteworthy that he and his wife, **Gliceria Rustia Tantoco,** have nurtured **Rustan's** from the small novelty and gift store in San Marcelino Street to the retailing empire and the conglomerate that it is today.

No other store in the Philippines has been able to create this particular profile or image in the minds of its patrons as clearly and distinctly as **Rustan's** has: classy but not condescending, sophisticated but not pretentious, upscale but not unreachable, elegant but not ostentatious. All these could well describe the **Ambassador** himself. A true gentleman of the old school, he has lived his life as elegantly and as fully as his destiny has ruled. Today is a culmination of the 80 years of life and an affirmation everything that he has worked for. We pay him tribute and we wish him all the best.

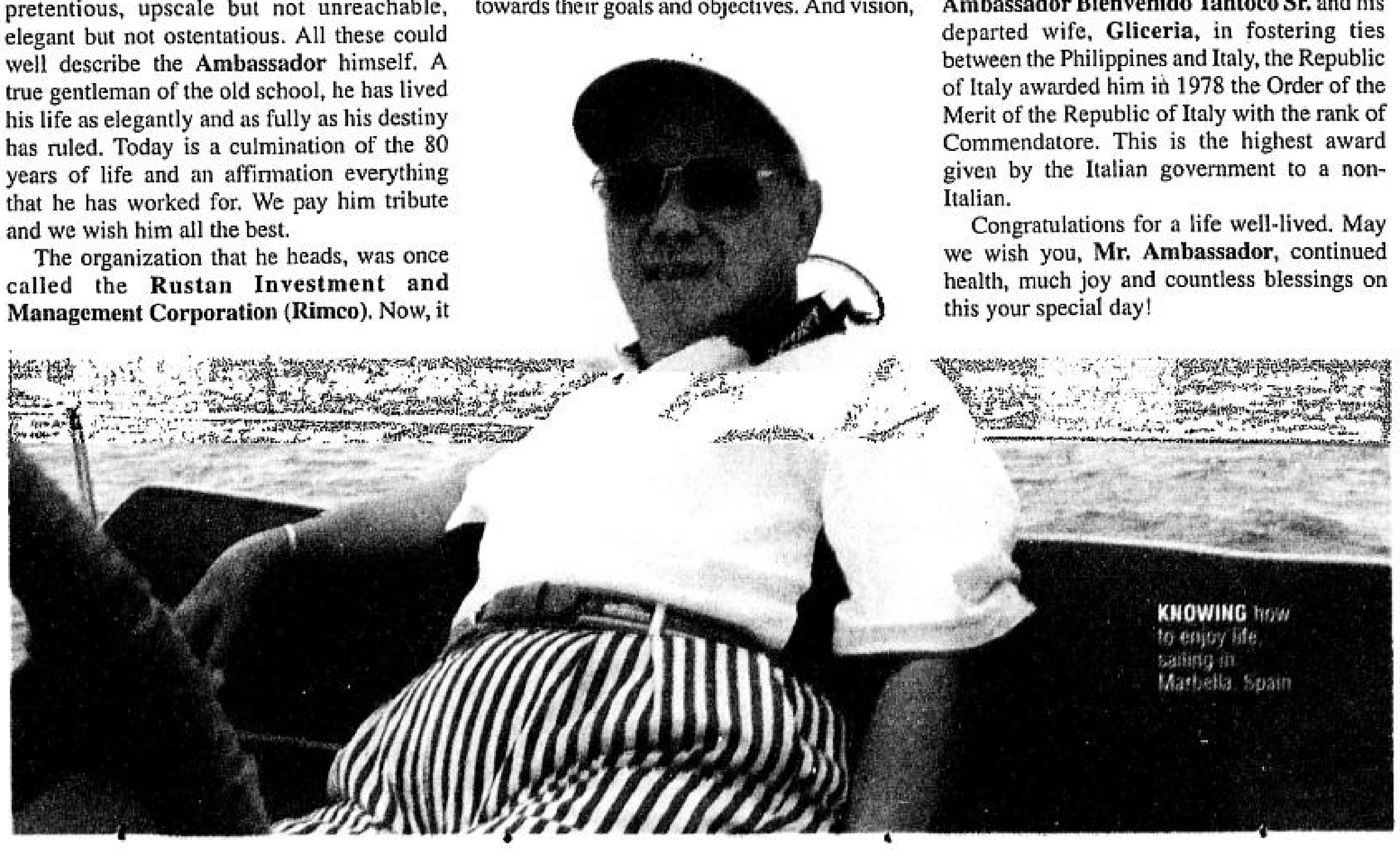
The organization that he heads, was once called the **Rustan Investment and Management Corporation** (**Rimco**). Now, it is called the **Rustan Group of Companies** (**RGOC**), comprising other businesses formed by the **Tantocos**. It is a fully integrated retailing operation with a golf and country club to boot! Its spectrum of services are chains of department store operations, a chain of supermarket operations, express food shops, wholesale distribution, fashion designing and manufacturing, brand developments, independent boutique operations, franchising (**Marks & Spencers** and **Starbucks**), **Duty Free Shopping**, security services, leisure services and most recently, **Rustan's Supercenters** known as **Shopwise**.

Synergy is the fuel that propels every member of the **RGOC** into the next millennium. Focus is what guides them towards their goals and objectives. And vision, imagination and fearless innovation are what keep them at the forefront of the industry with new retailing products still to come. Being sensitive to the evolving market is what makes every **RGOC** member company relevant and significant, and guides Rustan's in reinventing itself for the new future. At the helm of all these is the **Ambassador**, guided by a vision and a global awareness that he, and his wife, **Glecy**, shared and have imparted to their children.

The commercial relationship between **Rustan's** and Italy dates back to almost 45 years, covering a wide array of noted and most-sought after Italian brands in fashion, accessories and footwear.

The commitment and contributions of **Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.** and his departed wife, **Gliceria**, in fostering ties between the Philippines and Italy, the Republic of Italy awarded him in 1978 the Order of the Merit of the Republic of Italy with the rank of Commendatore. This is the highest award given by the Italian government to a non-Italian.

Congratulations for a life well-lived. May we wish you, **Mr. Ambassador**, continued health, much joy and countless blessings on this your special day!



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THE WET SET

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Super Summer Showcases

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3 winners per branch

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Every P300 purchase of Wet Set Inflatables entitles you to a raffle coupon

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Closing store hour of April 30, 2001

Draw Date : May 5, 2001 4:00PM
Ad & Promo Department
400 C. Palanca St. Quiapo Manila

Promo Period:
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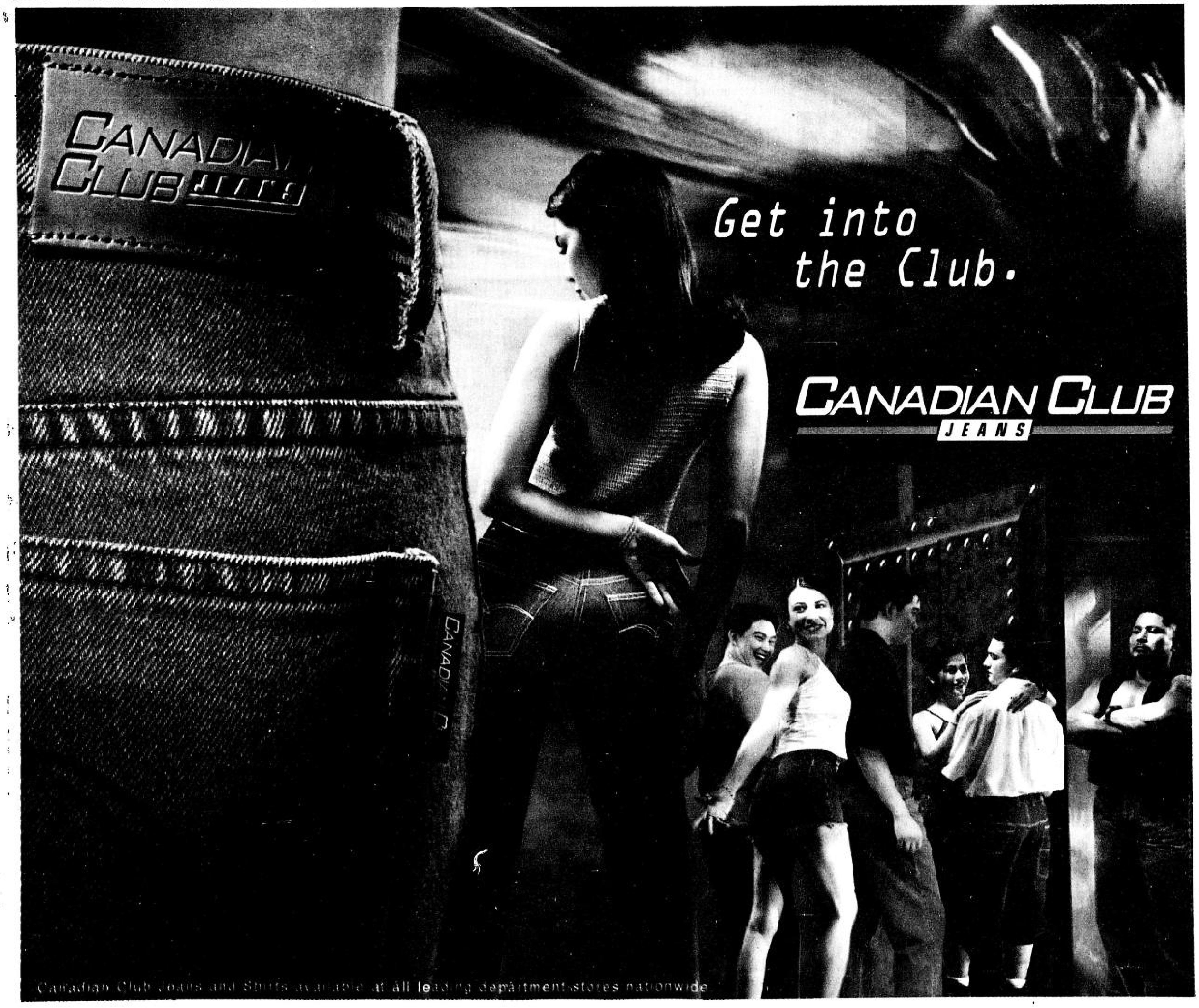

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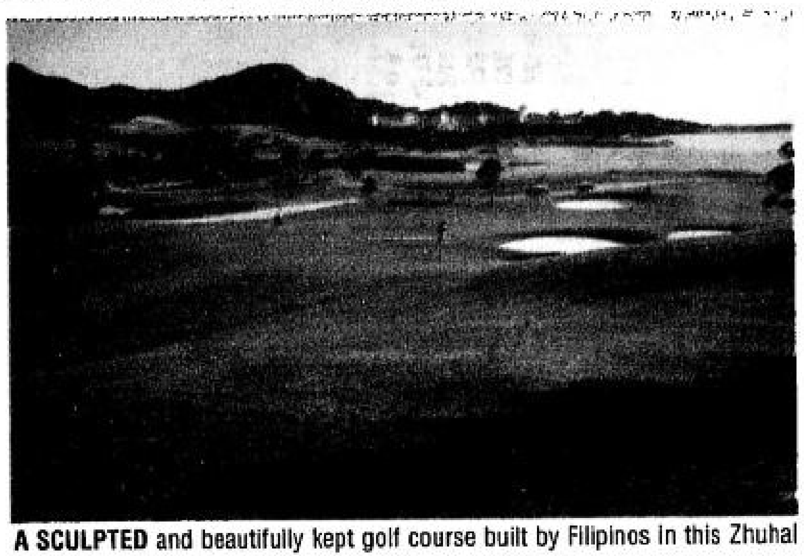

A SCULPTED and beautifully kept golf course built by Filipinos in this Zhuhai resort.

THE DUCKS in flight are breathtakingly beautiful.

ALEX Guerrero is on top of the world on this hill!

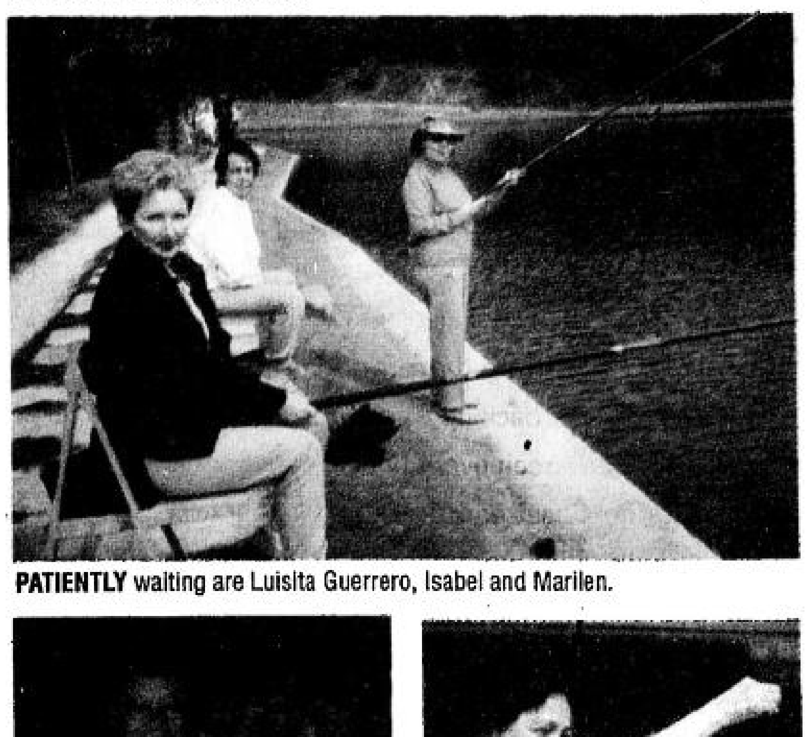
A Chinese Nature Trip

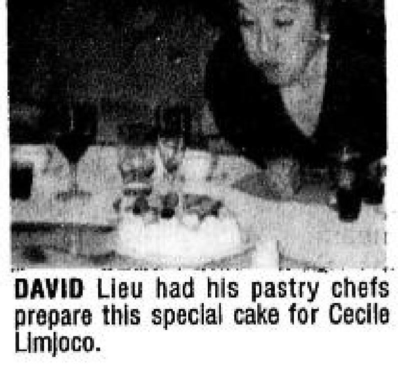
AUTHOR Isabel Caro Wilson with Spaniel puppies

AGAINST the Zhuhai Mountains are (from left) Fernando Guerrero, Randy & Cecile Limjoco, OV & Marilen Espiritu, Isabel Wilson, Josie and Ramon Sy.

LITERALLY dressed to kill for the hunt are (from left) Randy Limjoco, Bumbo Guerrero, OV Espiritu and Fernando Guerrero.

THE HUNTERS and their booty


PATIENTLY waiting are Luisita Guerrero, Isabel and Marilen.


DAVID Lieu had his pastry chefs prepare this special cake for Cecile Limjoco.

MARILEN'S prized catch actually choked on the bait!

BY ISABEL CARO WILSON

(Isabel Caro Wilson is the former Philippine Ambassador to Spain. A most accomplished lady and a true Renaissance woman, she excels in many fields. Travelling with her was great fun and a real learning experience. She shares this experience with Élan and demonstrates yet another one of her many skills, writing. It is delightful to have her join us in this issue. CSB)

THERE is a place in China, said **Randy Limjoco**—at a dinner party one evening—where the air is unpolluted and the scenery is divine. The developer is promoting club membership and is extending invitations to potential members for any weekend to play golf, hunt, fish, hike and just let go! It was an invitation we could not resist. Thus, our weekend to Zhuhai in Guandong province was organized.

Having reached that blessed state in my life where I am literally "footloose and fancy free," I joined **Lani** and **Conchitina Bernardo, OV** and **Marilen Espiritu, Ramon** and **Josie Sy** for the trip. At the airport we met up with **Randy** and **Cecile Limjoco** and the **Guerrero** family, **Bumbo & Luisita** with their 20-year-old son, **Fernando,** and 15-year-old daughter **Alexandra.** We were a congenial, fun-loving and happy group.

The 8:10 a.m. flight on PR-301 to Hong Kong was good and fortunately, uneventful. From the fabulous **Chap Lep Kok** airport we were bused to the **Zhuhai** ferry terminal. Since we arrived 15 minutes before departure time all the porters had gone. Lugging luggage through the terminal and going down two escalators requires stamina and a man! The husbands tried to be helpful but they had their hands full coping with their wives' suitcases. Apparently, nobody in our group had ever heard of "traveling light." Although I had a relatively small suitcase, it got heavier as I pulled and carried it through interminable walkways. Huffing and puffing, we finally boarded the ferry with a big sigh of relief!

The Pine Valley Sports and Country Club (PVSCC) was everything **Randy** promised it to be. It is located in a **"Green Area,"** meaning no industry. Just mountains, forests, lakes, parks and nature. The club developer, **David Lieu** and his wife, **Shirley**, welcomed us upon arrival and took us on a tour of the facilities. The beauty of our surroundings entranced us all yet we felt saddened because our own country is developing casinos instead of environmentally friendly and family-oriented resorts.

A SPANIEL makes is a great retriever and an affectionate pet.

O.V. Espiritu shares his experience:

*"The golf schedule for **Ramon Sy, Lani Bernardo** and me was at 8:54 a.m. on Saturday, although there was no need for a precise tee-off time as we were one of three flights on the golf course that morning. The 18-hole golf course was built around a lake surrounded by hills. It was designed by a Filipino. From the back tees, the course measured over 7,000 yards but we chose the blue tees with a total of about 6,600 yards.*

*It was like a cool **Baguio** summer day as we meandered around the course, frequently encountering pheasants, partridges, guinea fowl and wild ducks—the green hooded mallards. The air was filled with birdcalls, particularly on and near the lake, which had hundreds of mallards. The view from the tee mound of the sixth hole was a breathtaking panorama of a lake surrounded by a golf course nestled among the hills with a clubhouse in its midst. It proved difficult to concentrate on golf that day given the scenic diversions.*

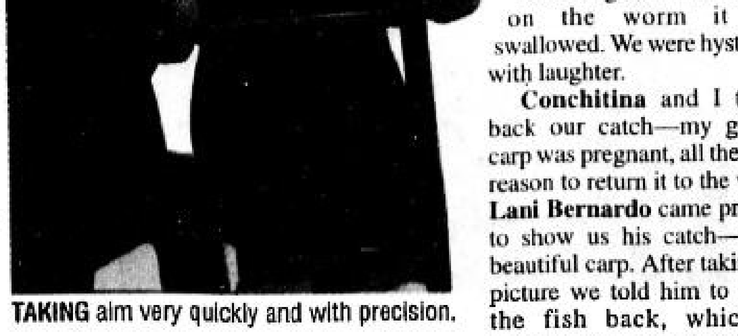
*"The hunt site was conveniently located at one edge of the lake away from the golf course. A major part of the facilities of the club is hunting and for this purpose, **David Lieu** operates a game farm where the pheasants, partridges, and guinea fowl are bred before being released into the resort. The mallards number well into the thousands and apparently thrive in the lake and surrounding areas. Everything is well organized, with safety as a prime concern. The club maintains an armory of shotguns for the use of guests. Game that has been bagged is cleaned and dressed by club personnel and often cooked in a variety of ways at the club kitchen or taken home. The dog kennels have pedigreed hunting dogs, which go with the hunt. Ducks, which are prolific breeders, are culled periodically to control the population.*

"The club also maintains Olympic standard trap and skeet facilities for members and guests to hone their shotgun skills."

All in all a sportsman's paradise!

We had a thoroughly relaxing time in a scenic and serene environment! Away from the hassle and turmoil of our daily routine, we basked in the splendor of nature, warmed by the sun and cooled by the mountain breeze. The men did "guy things" while the ladies went hiking, enjoyed massages, hot oils and facials. All benefited from the refreshingly clear and clean air.

On our last morning, we went fishing—an activity which requires calm and patience. We were fascinated by the wriggling little worms, which our fish warden inserted into the hooks. After casting our lines, we sat quietly as we watched the artificial bait bobbing in the water. It is mesmerizing (none of us women had ever fished before) and the thrill of seeing that bait sink and feel the pull of the hooked fish is truly exhilarating. **Conchitina** caught two fish, I caught three and **Marilen** got nly excited as she pulled in her line. Lo and behold she had a fingerling, smaller than her little finger, which choked on the worm it had swallowed. We were hysterical with laughter.


TAKING aim very quickly and with precision.

Conchitina and I threw back our catch—my golden carp was pregnant, all the more reason to return it to the water. **Lani Bernardo** came proudly to show us his catch—a big beautiful carp. After taking his picture we told him to throw the fish back, which he dutifully did. Later, **Randy** told me that **Lani** had cavalierly thrown his fish into the lake. No matter, he had three more. These were cooked deliciously (one steamed; two with sweet sour sauce) for lunch. We also enjoyed the guinea fowl, which young **Fernando** had shot.

WILD turkey, guinea fowls and game roam the fairways at leisure.

The lakes abound with fish while hunters have a selection of ducks, quail, wild turkey, guinea fowl and partridge. Beautiful, well-trained dogs (Labradors, retriever pointers, and spaniels) go with the hunt. It was exciting to see the dogs in action but hunting is a sport many of us do not endorse.

We toured the city of **Zhuhai** which is well-laid out with wide avenues, nice bridges, underground cables, (no ugly wires criss crossing the streets) trees and flowers. No garbage or litter in sight. The progressive management of this provincial city in China made us feel frustrated and upset at how far behind our Asian neighbors have left us.

We joined the Chinese "masa," as they enjoyed their Sunday outing. For approximately P100, the people had a whole day of variety shows, ponds full of carp, nicely laid out gardens decorated with statuary of Chinese imperial figures, rides and entertainment. Our ladies enjoyed a half-hour massage in the park—strong, young girls who left us limp and totally relaxed. The men took to archery and other distractions.

The park offers wholesome entertainment for families to enjoy.

After an early dinner at a Chinese fast food restaurant we took in a kitschy theatrical extravaganza, with a capital E. For local color, there were horses, chariots, pirates on a ship, roman warriors, imperial soldiers, harem dancers, thunder and lightning, clouds of smoke and, of course, pretty girls in a variety of roles lavishly but scantily costumed. The producer and director obviously had vivid imaginations but had some difficulty distinguishing between oriental legends and western decadence. The music was a cacophony of sound—a combination of Oriental opera and western rock. The crowd was enthralled. We marveled at how such a lavish production could be produced for P200 per person for choice seats.

We headed for home thoroughly invigorated. Fresh air, clean living and healthy activity are antidotes to stress and pressure. We touched base with nature and loved it!

ISABEL with her carp that she quickly released after.

MARILEN makes a wish for her birthday.

COOL, refreshing waters bathe the rocks.

Discovering The Great, Wild Outdoors

PHOTOS BY GUS DACUDAO

BY FE R. DACUDAO

IF you are young and adventurous, Davao is still the place to go. Between the depths of Samal Island and the heights of Mt. Apo, the bounty of nature awaits the adventurer who has the stamina, the patience and the keen eyes for beauty. On a clear summer day, a trek away from urban cares brings him to the roots of creation.

In the wilderness, the diversity of nature is arranged into one beautiful masterpiece. There the remnants of the destruction of man stay to be discovered and savored. Wildflowers, like the native *"sanggumay"* orchids, the sunflowers, and the torch ginger, will always be there exuding their colorful vigor, but you will have to look for them. The *waling-waling* and the Philippine eagle are somewhere up there, struggling to survive in their verdant ancestral domains being violated all the time. The streams come alive when the rains come but practically die when El Niño disturbs the weather pattern.

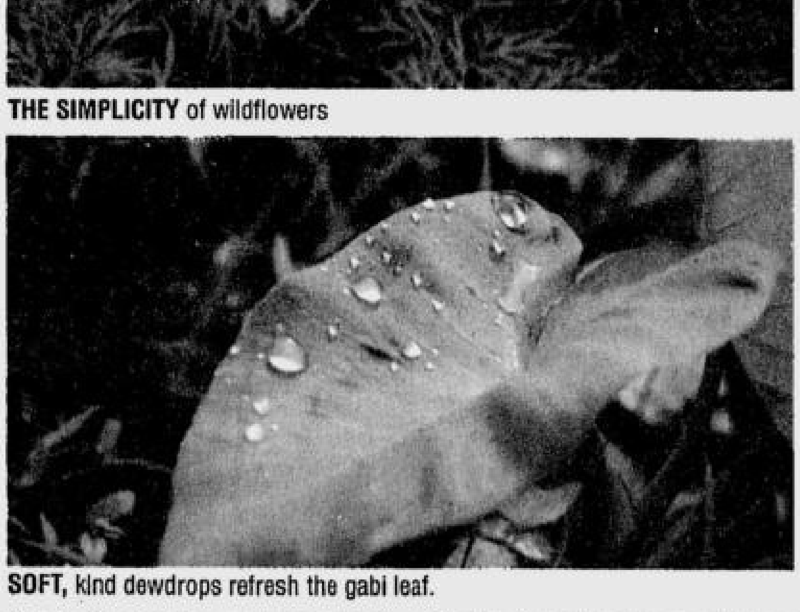
COLLECTIVE radiance covers the ground.

If it's the ultimate endurance test you're looking for, the challenge of Mt. Apo you must accept. The experience transcends the physical. The struggles, trials and mishaps that must be endured along the way are nothing but a reflection of life itself. And when you reach the summit, you encounter God face to face in His creation. Awesome is the experience of sitting on top of the highest peak.

A summertime of discovery awaits the adventurous spirit. Bonjour, summer!

A BUNCH of native orchids (sanggumay) delights the adventurous traveler.

THE SIMPLICITY of wildflowers


SOFT, kind dewdrops refresh the gabi leaf.

THE SOLITARY loveliness of a red torch ginger

THE PROTECTIVE shade of forest trees.

Philippine Sailing: The Shape Of Things To Come

A BRAND new Streaker Class sailboat

SAILING in the Philippines is regarded as an elitist sport. A cliché for most of us but it is a preconceived notion. Up until last year, sailboats of all sizes are being brought from abroad for the simple reason that there are no local boats that would meet the proper standards to teach, race and cruise in our 7,000-plus islands.

LQX, a leading proponent of small-boat sailing is making the sport accessible to the public. By building the boat locally and providing a place to sail within city limits, the sport of sailing has never been so ready to cater to anyone who would be interested to experience, learn or even master the intricacies of yachting.

The boat

Building a sailboat requires a lot of things. With the collective efforts of naval architects and members of the Philippine Sailing Association, LQX has selected the Streaker to build and introduce as the dinghy that will give access to the game. Why? Because of its simplicity and non-imposing features yet it looks very sleek to sail. And most importantly, it is the most affordable sailboat one can build in the country.

The Streaker is known in Europe as the "Forgiving Laser." It is versatile and can accommodate a wide range of crew weight. This sporty single-hander can out speed most of its type and at the same time, be very stable on the water. Its generous cockpit can accommodate a learning sailor at the helm and an instructor forward of the dagger board comfortably.

GEORGE Hachett (center), president of Bank Sails, in a light moment with LQX president Edmund V.B. Umali (right) and Felipe Mosquera, head coach of the Philippine Sailing Association.

The place

Logistics has a big part in the promotion of sailing. LQX has also made efforts to make the sport even more accessible by putting up a sailing venue at the heart of Manila. The Park Water Sailing Center is located at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. Its sprawling waterfront property is perfect for dinghy sailing. Westin offers the best vantage point of the course area, where the streakers will be sailed. The venue will also provide courses on how to sail, crushing tours and regular regattas.

A summer soft launch

This Easter, April 15, the Streaker and Park Water Sailing Center will be launched at the Westin in the form of a Regatta. Titled "Easter Sail Meet," the organizers will invite other one-design classes in the Philippines to join in a fun and festive regatta. The "Easter Sail Meet" has big potentials of becoming a major regatta in the future. However, the organizers have made the event simple as possible just so not to compromise its values of promoting sailing and having a fun-filled event.

For inquiries, call Edmund VB Umali at 916-5446 or e-mail at euna@lycos.com, or visit www.liquidexperience.com.

Your Skin and the Elements

Who can resist the clear blue waters at this time? Definitely not you. You've probably picked out a new suit and planned for the trip to that perfect beach.

Good for you. Not only is dipping in seawater fun, it is also healthy. The pulsating waves give a soothing massage which improves circulation and tones the body and skin. The air above it is charged with negative ions responsible for that invigorated feeling we get the minute we breathe in pristine environments.
(In our airconditoned offices, negative ions are practically nil!).

Dive into the SEA of pleasure.

No wonder seawater has been used to heal and preserve health for many centuries. Medical practitioners recommend bathing in seawater to help relieve a variety of ailments, from body aches to asthma to depression.

And rise from it without regrets.

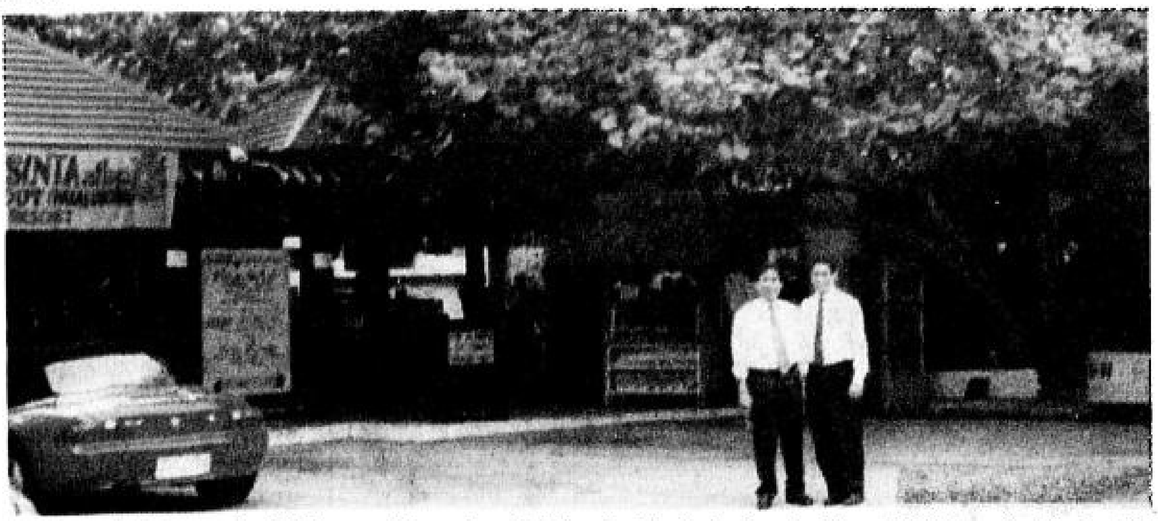
But being in the water also exposes your skin to dryness and even sunburn. Avoid it with some precautions.

1 Swim before 10am and after 3pm. Remember? That's when UV rays are least intense.
2 Apply sunscreen with at least 15 SPF before hitting the waters. Just because your body's underwater doesn't mean you're protected. UV rays penetrate through the water and are also reflected by the water back up – so no part of your body is spared. Re-apply sunscreen every hour.
3 Do NOT tan on purpose! You'll get darker even by just staying in the shade. Besides, we're brown enough as a race, aren't we?
4 If sunburned, take a shower with lukewarm water. It's better to use Johnson's pH 5.5 Body Wash to help the skin replenish lost moisture at once. Top up the moisture after bath with Johnson's pH 5.5 Lotion.
5 Drink plenty of liquids. Water is still the best. You do perspire amidst all that seawater. You can dehydrate unless you drink up.

Johnson's BODY LOTION
Johnson's BODY WASH
Johnson's pH 5.5

Johnson's 5.5
Soft, healthy skin is Johnson's pH 5.5

FAÇADE of the Oasis Country Resort in La Union

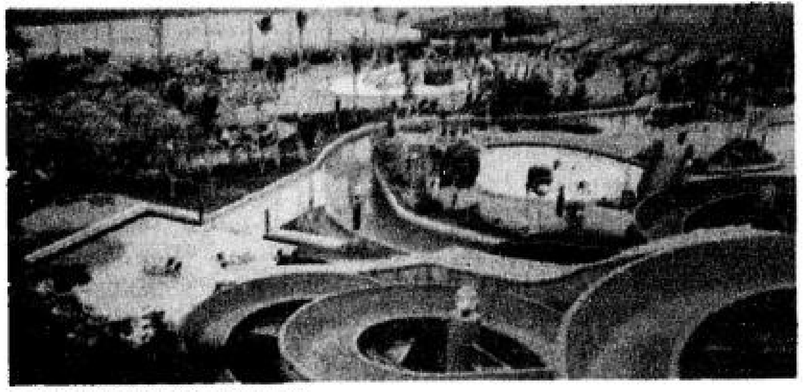


THE ENERGETIC duo, Jun Minimo and Romy Bernal, in front of the Oasis Country Resorts' 24-hour fast food outlet shaded by old giant trees

An Oasis In The Heart Of La Union

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY EDNA REYNOSO-ANTON

THE LEISURE Coast Resort in Dagupan



GEF'S Water Park in Dagupan

OASIS' sushi bar serving authentic Japanese cuisine

THE PREFERRED destinations of sun worshippers the whole year round are the unspoiled beaches of La Union where one can go jet skiing, surfing or scuba diving.

A day in La Union is not enough to visit all the other tourist attractions like the botanical and zoological gardens, museums, historical sites, different cottage industries and old churches, including the famous Agoo Basilica, renowned for religious rites during Holy Week.

A sanctuary where one can find refuge at the end of a hectic day is the plush Oasis Country Resort in San Fernando that boasts of international standard rooms and the most complete business and recreation facilities in the province. The Oasis is famous for its impeccable service and superb cuisine. It has an authentic sushi bar, coffee shop, 24-hour fast food outlet, 20 automated bowling lanes, table tennis, billiards tables and a cavernous convention hall that can easily accommodate 800 guests. Scheduled for completion in October is a huge kidney shaped swimming pool surrounded by eight cabañas.

The resort is excellently managed by **Jun M. Minimo**, formerly of Benihana and other top restaurants here and the United States, where he acquired vast experience in food and beverage operations. **Minimo** is ably assisted by F&B manager, **Pauline B. Bandoy**, and marketing manager, **Romeo D. Bernal**, in its day to day operations. The young and dynamic power team from Manila successfully turned around the operations and tripled the sales of Oasis in just a year, earning for **Bernal** recognition from the Press Media Affair as the Most Outstanding Marketing Manager in the Philippines last March 11 at the Manila Hotel.

LCR's general manager, Linda Moises

A Refreshing Water Park In Dagupan

Pilgrims going to Our Lady of Manaoag Church can now take a side trip to a beautiful tropical paradise set amidst rolling hills in a lush landscape along the Bonuan Highway in Dagupan City.

It takes about four hours to reach Bonuan, Barangay Binloc from Manila, but it's only an hour's drive from La Union to the neighboring province of Pangasinan. The Arzadon family recently inaugurated the Leisure Coast Resort and the only water park in the North. A hectare of pure fun and excitement, the Gef's Water Park has 3-storey slides, kiddie wading pool, lazy river and main pool to attract people of all ages. A popular wave pool will be added soon.

THE MINI golf course at Gef's Water Park.

An in-house golf pro is available for both beginners and regular players who want to practice in a double deck 250-yard golf range or in the mini-golf course. Under construction is a 9-hole Pitch and Putt golf course.

Sumptuous meals are served daily at the Sabina Restro, the Family Garden Grill, and the Sunburst Bar, except on Mondays when the resort is closed for maintenance. The Justin Function Hall with a seating capacity for 500 guests and the seminar room are some of the outlets found at the leisure resort.

Behind the helm of this successful operation is an efficient and vivacious lady. **Linda Moises**, who hails from Dagupan was with the Hyatt Terraces Baguio for 12 years as banquet sales secretary, catering coordinator and executive secretary. Prior to accepting her new position as general manager of the LCR, **Linda** was with the Baguio Country Club for seven years working as the very capable executive secretary to two former general managers.

YOUNG boys frolic at Gef's Water Park.

A Night Of Beauty With The New Avon Color

MASCARA in different shades

IT was a night of beauty and colors as global beauty company Avon proudly unveiled its **New Avon Color** during the much-awaited Fashion Week at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Combining broad and ultra-stylish color palettes with breakthrough technology, the **New Avon Color** represents the latest innovation in high performance, top quality cosmetics. All-new formulations in lipstick, eye shadow, powder blush, and presses and loose powder, deliver maximum wear performance with a luxurious feel upon application. Alongside these benefits, **New Avon Color** makes it debut in sleek and elegant packaging.

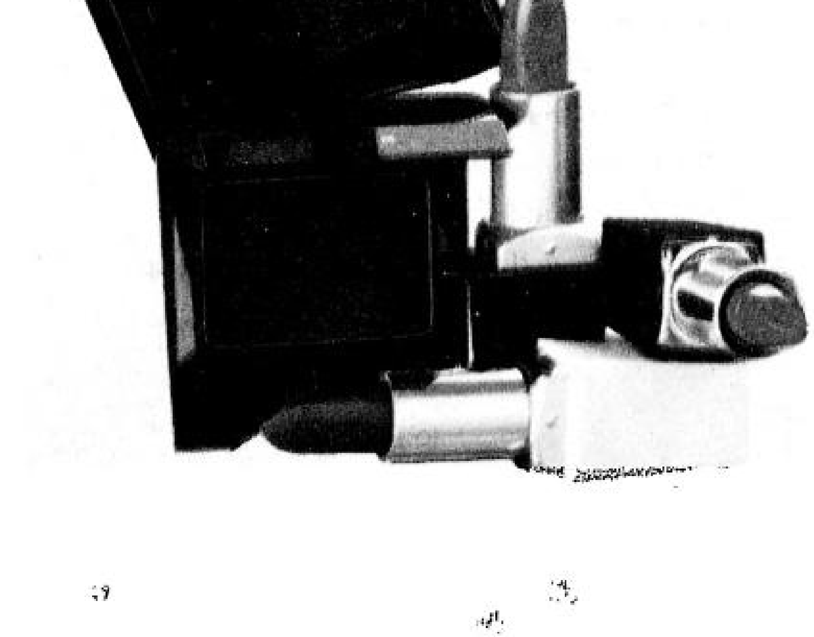
"Avon, as the company for women, has always been attuned to the needs and wants of women. The **New Avon Color** line, with its range of exciting color palettes, gives a woman the chance to choose any color that she feels best describe her or her moods," remarked **Sobee Duenas**, Avon Color brand manager.

During the very exciting Avon Color evening, celebrity host **Boy Abunda** and top make-up artist **Lala Flores** brought the audience to a journey of colors with the presentation of easy yet extraordinary make-up application steps. Called Avon Color's "Basic" approach, the make-up features simple steps to achieving beautiful results with color. Basic stands for **brightening, accentuating, shaping, intensifying** and **coloring.**

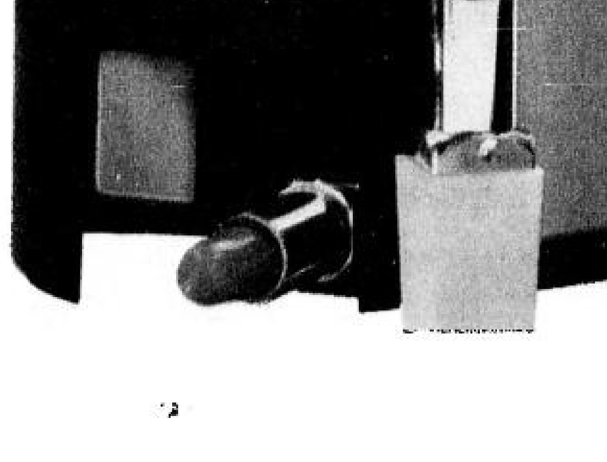
As **Lala Flores** emphasized, "Putting on make-up and colors is fun and exciting. There's no need to be afraid when you experiment with colors for your face."

The highlight of the evening was the Color and Make-up Show, with the fashion industry's top ramp and commercial models. The audience was presented with an explosion of colors featuring New Avon Color's Color of Families of Beiges/Browns, Reds, Mauves/Berries and Pinks/Roses.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $5.3 billion in annual revenues. It markets to women in 135 countries through its 3 million Avon representatives. Product lines include such recognizable brands as Anew, Avon Basics and Skin-So-Soft. Avon also markets an extensive line of intimate apparel, fashion jewelry, apparel, gifts and collectibles. More information on Avon can be found on its award-winning website at www.avon.com.



NEW revolutionary makeup that stays fresh-looking all day



NEW Avon Color defines beautiful with innovation.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Jorge, Baby, Mike Arroyo, Doña Esther and Stella Araneta.

JOHNNY Araneta (from left), Meldy Cojuangco, Tiling Yulo and Pitoy Moreno

SONY Gonzales (from left), Sally Perez, Elo Fernan, Cecile Mitra and Mercy Tuason

GRAND ladies. From left are Letty del Rosario, Stella Araneta, Nelly Lovina and Nenuca Jose.

A Special Night For Esther

DOÑA Esther Araneta has lived a life that is replete with joy but not without its share of pain and trials. And she has lived it well and to the fullest. She continues to enjoy her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who paid tribute to her in a most heartwarming way on the night of her 90th birthday.

The *Bahay na Puti* at Cubao was full of well-wishers and friends that wanted to share this special evening with her and to wish **Doña Esther** many more years to come. Daughters, **Judy Roxas** and **Baby Fores,** attending to every detail from the food to the show, made sure that everything went well, while son, **Jorge,** was busy entertaining the guests.

BEAUTIFUL dessert table

Her granddaughter, **Gaita Fores,** prepared a sumptuous buffet of the choicest items in her famous repertoire of gourmet food. **Toni Parsons** decorated the buffet tables with large red amaryllis and pumpkins, with beautiful red roses. The theme was garden and naturals, and it was repeated in the centerpieces. The side tables were filled with vegetables, green growing plants and organic material, as if to wish Doña Esther a continued long and happy life.

The most delightful part of the evening was the show prepared by all the members of the family. The little great grandchildren danced to rap music, the grandchildren and their spouses did the swing and the children did the cha-cha, merengue. Not to be left out, her *barkada* and *mahjong* mates also did a slightly milder rumba-cha cha. To express her delight, **Doña Esther** stood up and danced with son, **Jorge,** while the guest let out a loud cheer.

DTI Secretary Mar Roxas with his Wawa

Special guest of the evening was the President herself, **Gloria Macapagal Arroyo,** who came with husband **Mike,** to greet **Doña Esther** a very happy birthday and to give their best wishes.

Everyone who left that evening came home feeling lighthearted and full of the warmth and love that were so contagious and that emanated from every member of that family. **Doña Esther** is **Inday** to her friends, **Mama** to her children, and **Wawa** to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Whatever way you wish to call her, **Esther Araneta** is a grand lady and will always be treasured in many hearts.

BOLING Tuason and Ria Ojeda

ALVIN Lim and Gaita Fores

ROSIE A. Valencia (left), President Cory Aquino and Doña Esther.

RONNIE (from left) Concepcion, Gretchen Cojuangco and Johnny Litton

BABY Fores (left) and Judy Roxas

When Traveling Is More Than Just A Piece of Luggage

TWENTY years ago, traveling did not have the same kind of status that it is enjoying now. Though we are sure that traveling was not an unknown concept to many, somehow it was an activity that only a handful managed to do. Whereas nowadays, some people would be regarded as "in," simply because they have been to Hong Kong, the US or any foreign destination.

How did that happen? It is quite funny to note that history has something to do with the gradual evolution of the Filipino perception of traveling. In the past, it was an exclusive affair limited to the elite and the privileged. However, traveling has now become a common activity among Filipinos. This change in attitude can be traced to the political and economic events that have happened in the past three decades.

During the 70s, traveling is not really regarded as something worth the effort. With the imposition of Martial Law, the unstable political arena and the limited access to traveling opportunities, getting in and out of the country was pretty much out of the question.

In the 80s, prominent political events such as the lifting of Martial Law, the change in leadership brought by the Edsa Revolution, the coup attempts and the high demand for Filipino skilled workers abroad, created a topsy-turvy scene for traveling. And there was a growing awareness about luggage, travel packages and other similar ideas.

The attitude toward traveling continued to veer towards the positive side in the 90s. With the influx of foreign investors and the hundreds of thousands of *"balikbayans"* and overseas workers coming to and leaving the country, traveling was raised to a new level of awareness. More and more people began to pay attention to it.

In view of all these developments, a group of young entrepreneurs tinkered with the idea of putting up a travel-related business in the country. Inspired by the success of luggage store seen during their frequent trips abroad, the people behind **Uniglobe Travelware Co. Inc.** decided to put up a specialty store patterned after them.

Hence, in 1992, the first specialty store called **The Travel Club** was opened at the 2nd level of SM Megamall Building A.

The name itself implies a sense of exclusivity generally mean for people who travel. Being the only one that is mainly engaged in distributing travel ware, the response to the pioneer store was encouraging. People talked about it as being the one and only of its kind in the Philippines. This was due to the fact that **The Travel Club** believes that there is more to traveling than just a simple suitcase. In fact, there is a whole range of travel wares and other items being offered by **The Travel Club** that can make one's traveling experience a lot more convenient and organized. A visit to the shop will give credence to this corporate philosophy.

The Travel Club offers an extensive line of baggage, business "attache" cases, casual bags, backpacks and a variety of traveling accessories with the top-of-the-line.brands, known all over the world.

For luggage and business cases, one can choose from a wide array of products from **Samsonite, American Tourister** and **Eminent** (Taiwan).

The Travel Club also offers casual bags with such brands as **Mendoza, Natural Flight, World Traveler, Jansport, Hedgren** and travel accessories such as **Coghiam's.**

After three years, **The Travel Club** clientele began to grow as well. From consisting mainly of businessmen and migrating couples, they now include an increasing number of yuppies, students, teenagers and even overseas workers.

Indeed, the art of travel has come of age. With the advent of wheels, built-in trolleys in suitcase and a palette of colors, travelling can be done with both convenience and style. Furthermore, aside from its wide range of products, **The Travel Club** likewise offers customers value of money.

CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT IT.

BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOUR VALUABLES BEHIND.

FOR YOUR LUGGAGE NEEDS. VISIT THE TRAVEL CLUB.

THE PRE-DEPARTURE AREA.

TRAVEL CLUB

ALABANG TOWN CENTER, AYALA CEBU, GLORIETTA 4, HARRISON PLAZA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, SM CITY CEBU, SM CITY MANILA, BASEMENT SM CITY NORTH EDSA, SM CITY ILOILO, BLDG A SM MEGAMALL

PAL Marks 60 Years Of Service

VICE president and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona with PAL chair and CEO Lucio C. Tan, wife, Carmen, and PAL president and COO Avelino L. Zapanta (standing).

MINERVA Lota, PAL's longest-serving employee, receives a token of appreciation from PAL chair and CEO Lucio C. Tan (from right), PAL president and COO Avelino L. Zapanta and PAL VP for Human Resources Cesar B. Lambarte for her 41 long years of service to the airline.

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The Art of the Potter: Jon and Tessy Pettyjohn

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY
VICKY LOPEZ

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Last week **Tessy** and **Jon** asked a small group of their students to go to their home in Pansol to do a **"Raku"** firing. **Raku** is a Japanese kiln method for developing surface qualities and colors on pottery. It was originally developed for the Japanese tea service.

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JOHN sitting in his kiln

THE TABLE set with different pieces made by the artist as well as the hanging lamp made of porcelain bowls.

The way to Pansol in Laguna is a lovely drive, the scenery changes from urban to fields lined with beautiful Acacia trees, the terrain slopes gently, lush with plants and the energy of Maria Makiling, beckoning to you. Once in the neighborhood, you cannot miss the **Pettyjohn** home because above each gatepost stands a piece of pale green pottery.

Their home is composed of three structures built on different levels of a hill. All are Filipino in style with oversized windows and capiz shutters. Tall bamboos and fruit trees abound, swaying to the breeze of Laguna de Bay. A perfect setting for an artist.

There are flights of stone steps to get from one house to the next or to the studio where the kiln is. From the balcony of the topmost house, where they live, looms the outline of Mt. Makiling . **Jon** filled me in on the legend of Maria Makiling adding his understanding of the legend to be one that conserves the environment.

"You see" said **Jon**, "Maria Makiling fell in love with a mortal from Calamba. This man asked of her so much and kept asking for more. In the end only to abandon her to marry a mortal maiden. Maria was so heart broken that to this day she wanders around the mountain in great torment."

To **Jon,** it means that people should not just take repeatedly from nature with out any regard for her, we should all learn to treat Mother Nature with great respect and a very nurturing heart. From his balcony, he pointed out the University of Fine Arts for the very gifted artists atop Mt. Makiling and the rain forests which Jon claims to have more of a variety of trees then North America as well as many migrant birds. Perhaps, this means Maria's wounds are healing and she is able to love again.

At this point we gathered our work for **Jon** to put in to the gas kiln, **"Raku"** is a low temperature technique which lasts for two hours. Once our work was in the kiln, we had time to chat and look around the houses. Filled in every which way with **Jon's** work as well as antique pottery and palayoks. Wherever one looks, there are jars and bowls of great beauty of form and glaze.

Tessy had set dinner in the main house, what a delight! Each place setting was a different piece that was the work of their hands. **Jon** served wine and an absolutely refreshing Pandan juice, while **Tessy** laid out a scrumptious Filipino feast. The conversation run the gamut from madcow decease to everything under the sun, and kept returning to a beautiful red bowl that Jon had made and how if it were gone, everyone would be a suspect!

I queried **Jon** on how he became a potter, this is his story: He was taking Liberal Arts in America in the seventies. Hippie times he called it, in his words they were the lost generation, the flower children.

He dropped out of school, keeping himself busy by doing manual labor. In his free time he found himself in the company of artist's friends, just hanging out or playing his guitar. At some point he went to Barcelona to visit a cousin. His cousin was studying in "Escuela Massana" at the Barrio Gotica. The school was a castle-like structure between six hundred to a thousand years old. A school whose portals saw the likes of Miro, Tapias and Gaudi.

The minute he walked into the medieval courtyard with its vaulted domed edifice, enlightenment struck him, he knew at that moment that he wanted to be an artist, a potter.

He stayed on in Barcelona for the next four years as a student and apprentice, preparing himself to move to Japan to apprentice seriously with a Japanese Master.

But as always, destiny is written in the stars and **Jon** came home to Manila. In April, of 1978 he had his first exhibit at " *Sining Kamalig*" That was the night he met **Tessy San Juan**. It was love at first sight!

On his part, that is. For **Tessy**, a pottery student of U.P. thought of him as being way too aloof, *"suplado."* But, he explains that he was just scared to death during that first exhibit. But not scared enough to remember to ask for her number.

They were married in September of that year. Twenty-three years and many pots later they have three lovely daughters, **Corrina, Hannah** and the vibrant **Mia.**

Since then, they have worked in tandem gathering indigenous materials to make into various glazes and clays. A feat to be proud of because it was said it could not be done here. They have produced Celadon, Temoku, Pinatubo and many other glazes, traveling far and wide to source their materials. Nowadays with the advent of the Internet there is so much interaction and exchange between potters all over the world.

Jon feels it has made things easier, one can obtain answers, eliminating so much trial and error. Sometime in the eighties people asked the **Pettijohns** for lessons, he recalls how he was such a terrible mentor, more of a tormentor! He was just too serious about everything.

To him it was an exacting discipline to be followed in its strictest sense.

Now he realizes to make good pots he has had to "lighten up" and enjoy what he is doing for the pure pleasure of it. He likes making pottery that is simple yet strong. Wandering often what will this object, made from his hand look like a thousand years from now. For him that is the experience, to hold something from some ancient past and experience the person who made it, his life and his times.

The students became numerous, forcing them to open up a studio at the Madrigal Center in Ayala Alabang, which remains open to this day. And because of more demand they also opened at the Garden Square Building at the Greenbelt Center in Makati. There, on the third floor is the **"Pansol Pottery Studio." Jon, Tessy** and their partner and co-teacher, **Adee Mendoza**, take turns teaching potter "wannabes" like myself how to knead, then to pinch, coil, throw, glaze and fire. The whole nine yards of it.

The lure of the clay attracts many people from all walks of life and of all ages. Everyone feels a bit like **Demi Moore** in the film "Ghost" that is, until they really have some idea of what they are trying to do. Quite successfully, in the last two years, the students have had yearly exhibits, as well as the one-man shows of **Addie Mendoza** and, quite recently, **Winnie Go** and **Lillia Lao.**

"There is much opportunity in this art and craft" says **Jon**, "one can move on to architectural ceramics and tiles, that may eventually become an artistically rewarding and lucrative career." It saddens him that more young artists are not attracted to this medium.

What is your philosophy I asked? In the beginning, he used to worry about whether he was an artist or a potter, now, it is just important that he enjoys it. "When you make these things you have an art experience. It is neither intellectual in the making nor in the using of it. It is a very sensual experience." Recently, he met a philosopher potter at the Wood Fire Festival in Korea, who basically said, " If you want to make good pots you have to enjoy your life."

And that is what **Tessy** and **Jon** are doing, what they love to do best, creating pottery and sharing their love for it with people from all walks of life. They savor life in all its beautiful moments with family and friends. After all the art of living is the ultimate art form.

TESSY and John

POTTERY glowing in the kiln

AT the Pansol Pottery Studio, Garden Square Building, Jon and Tessie with their students: Bernouli Robles, the author, Popi Laudico, Yukie Sato and Tina Robles.

SMILING "potters" inspecting their Raku pieces: Tina Robles, Ging Pajaro, Popi Laudico, Mia Pettyjohn and Bernouli Robles.

RAKU firing. Boboy Roxas putting in the jars while Bernouli Robles and Marcelino Lao help out

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Their home is composed of three structures built on different levels of a hill. All are Filipino in style with oversized windows and capiz shutters. Tall bamboos and fruit trees abound, swaying to the breeze of Laguna de Bay. A perfect setting for an artist.

There are flights of stone steps to get from one house to the next or to the studio where the kiln is. From the balcony of the topmost house, where they live, looms the outline of Mt. Makiling . **Jon** filled me in on the legend of Maria Makiling adding his understanding of the legend to be one that conserves the environment.

"You see" said **Jon**, "Maria Makiling fell in love with a mortal from Calamba. This man asked of her so much and kept asking for more. In the end only to abandon her to marry a mortal maiden. Maria was so heart broken that to this day she wanders around the mountain in great torment."

To **Jon**, it means that people should not just take repeatedly from nature with out any regard for her, we should all learn to treat Mother Nature with great respect and a very nurturing heart. From his balcony, he pointed out the University of Fine Arts for the very gifted artists atop Mt. Makiling and the rain forests which Jon claims to have more of a variety of trees then North America as well as many migrant birds. Perhaps, this means Maria's wounds are healing and she is able to love again.

At this point we gathered our work for **Jon** to put in to the gas kiln, **"Raku"** is a low temperature technique which lasts for two hours. Once our work was in the kiln, we had time to chat and look around the houses. Filled in every which way with **Jon's** work as well as antique pottery and palayoks. Wherever one looks, there are jars and bowls of great beauty of form and glaze.

Tessy had set dinner in the main house, what a delight! Each place setting was a different piece that was the work of their hands. **Jon** served wine and an absolutely refreshing Pandan juice, while **Tessy** laid out a scrumptious Filipino feast. The conversation run the gamut from madcow decease to everything under the sun, and kept returning to a beautiful red bowl that Jon had made and how if it were gone, everyone would be a suspect!

I queried Jon on how he became a potter, this is his story: He was taking Liberal Arts in America in the seventies. Hippie times he called it, in his words they were the lost generation, the flower children.

He dropped out of school, keeping himself busy by doing manual labor. In his free time he found himself in the company of artist's friends, just hanging out or playing his guitar. At some point he went to Barcelona to visit a cousin. His cousin was studying in "Escuela Massana" at the Barrio Gotica. The school was a castle-like structure between six hundred to a thousand years old. A school whose portals saw the likes of Miro, Tapias and Gaudi.

The minute he walked into the medieval courtyard with its vaulted domed edifice, enlightenment struck him, he knew at that moment that he wanted to be an artist, a potter.

He stayed on in Barcelona for the next four years as a student and apprentice, preparing himself to move to Japan to apprentice seriously with a Japanese Master.

But as always, destiny is written in the stars and **Jon** came home to Manila. In April, of 1978 he had his first exhibit at *" Sining Kamalig"* That was the night he met **Tessy San Juan**. It was love at first sight!

On his part, that is. For **Tessy**, a pottery student of U.P. thought of him as being way too aloof, *"suplado."* But, he explains that he was just scared to death during that first exhibit. But not scared enough to remember to ask for her number.

They were married in September of that year. Twenty-three years and many pots later they have three lovely daughters, **Corrina, Hannah** and the vibrant **Mia**.

Since then, they have worked in tandem gathering indigenous materials to make into various glazes and clays. A feat to be proud of because it was said it could not be done here. They have produced Celadon, Temoku, Pinatubo and many other glazes, traveling far and wide to source their materials. Nowadays with the advent of the Internet there is so much interaction and exchange between potters all over the world.

Jon feels it has made things easier, one can obtain answers, eliminating so much trial and error. Sometime in the eighties people asked the **Pettijohns** for lessons, he recalls how he was such a terrible mentor, more of a tormentor! He was just too serious about everything.

To him it was an exacting discipline to be followed in its strictest sense.

Now he realizes to make good pots he has had to "lighten up" and enjoy what he is doing for the pure pleasure of it. He likes making pottery that is simple yet strong. Wandering often what will this object, made from his hand look like a thousand years from now. For him that is the experience, to hold something from some ancient past and experience the person who made it, his life and his times.

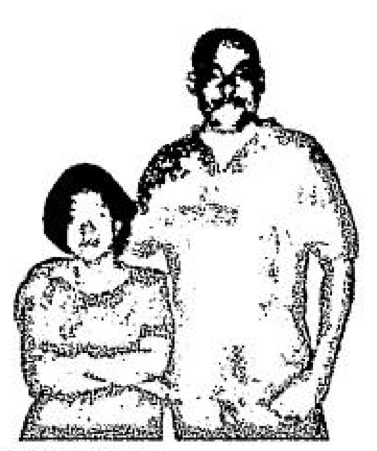
The students became numerous, forcing them to open up a studio at the Madrigal Center in Ayala Alabang, which remains open to this day. And because of more demand they also opened at the Garden Square Building at the Greenbelt Center in Makati. There, on the third floor is the **"Pansol Pottery Studio." Jon, Tessy** and their partner and co-teacher, **Adee Mendoza**, take turns teaching potter "wannabes" like myself how to knead, then to pinch, coil, throw, glaze and fire. The whole nine yards of it.

The lure of the clay attracts many people from all walks of life and of all ages. Everyone feels a bit like **Demi Moore** in the film "Ghost" that is, until they really have some idea of what they are trying to do. Quite successfully, in the last two years, the students have had yearly exhibits, as well as the one-man shows of **Addie Mendoza** and, quite recently, **Winnie Go** and **Lillia Lao**.

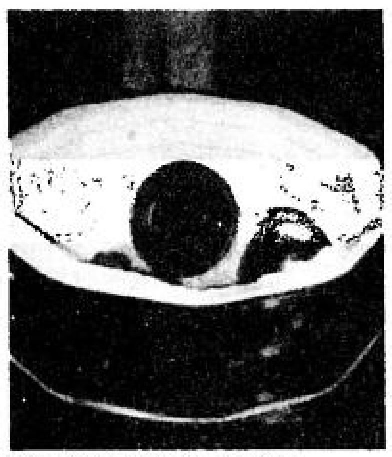
"There is much opportunity in this art and craft" says **Jon**, "one can move on to architectural ceramics and tiles, that may eventually become an artistically rewarding and lucrative career." It saddens him that more young artists are not attracted to this medium.

What is your philosophy I asked? In the beginning, he used to worry about whether he was an artist or a potter, now, it is just important that he enjoys it. "When you make these things you have an art experience. It is neither intellectual in the making nor in the using of it. It is a very sensual experience." Recently, he met a philosopher potter at the Wood Fire Festival in Korea, who basically said, " If you want to make good pots you have to enjoy your life."

And that is what **Tessy** and **Jon** are doing, what they love to do best, creating pottery and sharing their love for it with people from all walks of life. They savor life in all its beautiful moments with family and friends. After all the art of living is the ultimate art form.



TESSY and John



POTTERY glowing in the kiln

AT the Pansol Pottery Studio, Garden Square Building, Jon and Tessie with their students: Bernouli Robles, the author, Popi Laudico, Yukie Sato and Tina Robles.

SMILING "potters" inspecting their Raku pieces: Tina Robles, Ging Pajaro, Popi Laudico, Mia Pettyjohn and Bernouli Robles.

RAKU firing. Boboy Roxas putting in the jars while Bernouli Robles and Marcelino Lao help out

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DON Enrique Zobel de Ayala

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a great hispanista, with Alejandro Padilla (left) and Georgina and Diana MacCrohon.

The Premio Zobel

DOÑA Gloria Zobel de Padilla with children Alejandro and Georgina.

LOURDES Brilliantes, author of the Premio Zobel book recieves her award from Alejandro Padilla.

THE PREMIO Zobel was founded by the late **Don Enrique Zobel de Ayala** on July 22, 1920, with the objective of fomenting the study of Spanish, promoting the correct literary use of it, and to a large degree, to reward the efforts of individuals who have worked towards these goals.

It was perceived as an annual prize for the best literary work in Spanish authored by a Filipino, adjudged by a jury of three, whose decision was deemed final.

Don Enrique, a patron of the arts and letters, saw the need for this philanthropic endeavor during his time, in order to preserve the Hispanic heritage in the culture, religion and language of the islands he grew to love and to cherish.

A jury composed of **Don Claro M. Recto, Don Jose Ledesma** and **Don Victoriano Onrubia** first awarded the Prize to Don Guillermo Gomez Windham on July 25, 1922 for his work "La Carrera de Candida." Subsequent awardees were **Buenaventure Rodriguez, Manuel Bernabe, Jesus Balmori, Jose P. Bantug, Antonio M. Abad, Emiterio Barcelon, Esperanza L. Baxter, Ramon Escoda, Enrique Fernandez Lumba, Evangeline Guerrero, Joaquin Ramirez de Arellano, Manuel Ravago, Benigno del Rio, Rafael S. Ripoll, Jose Teotico**, among others.

Some of the illustrious members of the jury were (aside from the three mentioned): **Antonio Abad, Emiterio Barcelona, Gondola de Beaumont, Manuel Bernie, Jorge Bocobo, Antonio Brias, Federico Calero, Teodoro M. Kalaw, Arsenio Luz, Jose Romero Salas, Carlos P. Romulo, Jaime de Veyra, Fernando Zobel**, among others.

The Donors have modified the objective, to broaden it and include efforts along culture endeavors.

In more recent years, the awardees include: **Antonio Molina, Alejandro R. Roces, Fr. Jose S. Arcilla, S.J. Francisco C. Deluged, Rosary G. Manila, Juan Jose V. Roach, Raul S. Manglapus, Rosario V. Lamug, H.E. Jaime Cardinal Sin, Isabel Caro Wilson, Rosalinda L. Orosa, Lourdes Brillantes**, to name a few.

This year's **Premio Zobel** awardee is **Lina Obieta de Sevilla** for her efforts towards the restoration of the Spanish language into the curriculum of Filipino schools and to bring back Spanish as one of the official languages in the Philippines and Spain, having had long cultural and historic ties with Spain. She is currently the Foundress and the directress of the Fundacion de la Lengua Hispanica en Filipinas.

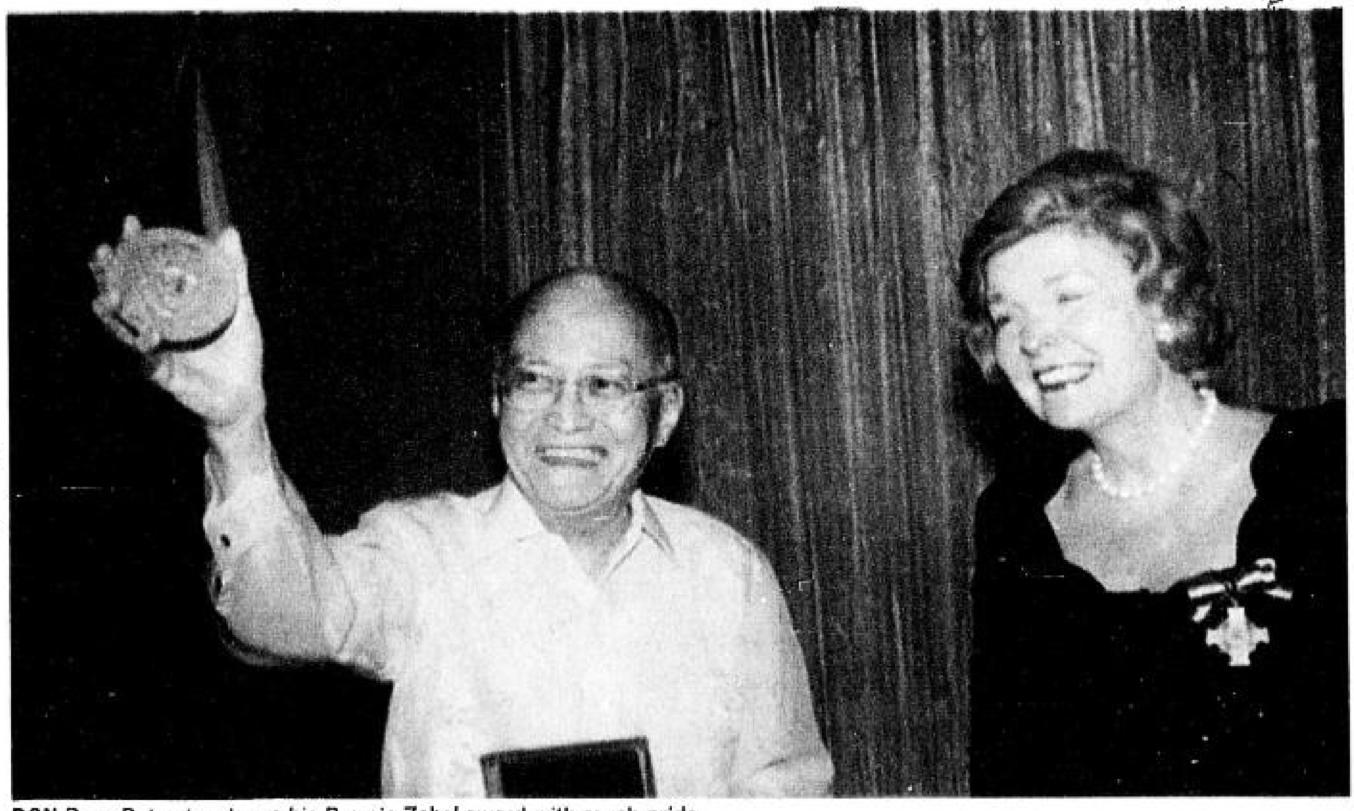
The candidates are screened with the assistance of members of the Academia Filipino, who form the *"Jurado"* or jury.

Today, **Doña Georgina Padilla Zobel de Mac-Crohon** and **Don Alejandro Padilla y Zobel**, children of **Doña Gloria Zobel de Padilla**, daughter and founder, sustain the **Premio Zobel**. They were supported and encouraged by their father **Don Ricardo Padilla** who also had a deep love for the Philippines. The **Padilla Zobel** family perpetuate the **Premio Zobel**, not only in memory of their mother and grandfather, but because they, too, believe in the purpose for which the **Premio** was established.

LINA Obieta de Sevilla, this year's awardee.

HIS Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin was a Premio Zobel awardee, shown here with Alejandro Padilla and Georgina MacCrohon.

DON Ricardo Padilla with the late President Diosdado Macapagal



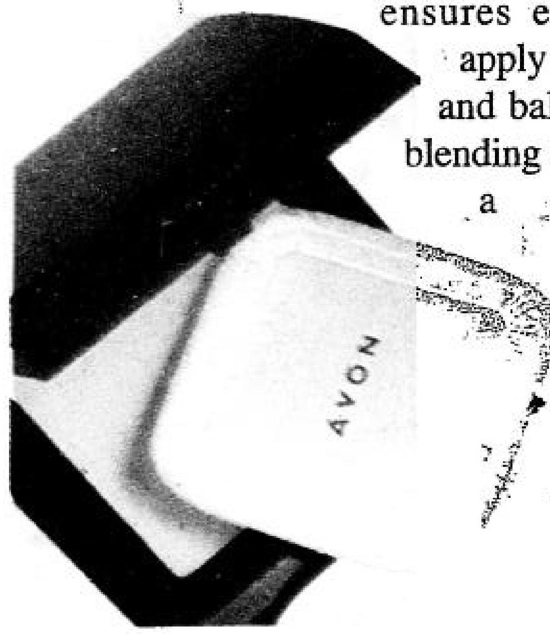
DON Paco Delgado, shows his Premio Zobel award with much pride.

let's talk expert makeup tips

How many times have you looked at glossy fashion magazines and wondered, "How did Julia get that shine on her lips," or "Why does makeup look better on Meg than on me?"

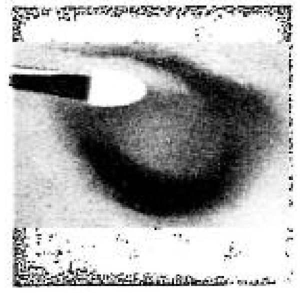
Don't fret! Hollywood celebrities have a host of makeup artists and experts fussing over their every feature. Since not everyone can have a makeup artist at their disposal, ***Avon Color*** has come up with a makeup technique as easy as B-A-S-I-C.

Avon's BASIC Application is a mistake-proof, how-to for applying makeup. It's a clever acronym for Brighten, Accent, Shape, Intensify, and Color. This technique ensures each shade you apply will compliment and balance your other blending colors so you get a flawless, professional look.

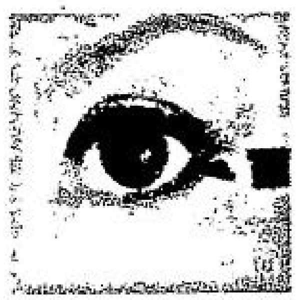


When applying makeup, the goal is to look polished, but still natural. Highlighting your eyes, lips, cheeks, and adding detail like nail color brings any wardrobe together. Begin with a layer of *Avon Color* pressed powder, then just follow these B.A.S.I.C. steps. Next time around, people will be asking you, "Just how did you do that with your makeup?"

Brighten with base shadow, lighter shade. Starting with a light shade of eye-shadow evens out the skin of the eyelid, giving it a natural foundation for eye makeup. **The light shade** will not be covered up by a deeper shade, but will come through when you blend.



Accent with contour shadow, deeper shade. The layering of a darker, deeper shade on top of the lighter shade creates depth to the eyes.



Shape with eye liner and blush. Now that you've added dimension to your eyes, it's time to define angles and shapes. Eye liner outlines the natural shape of your eyes, making it stand out. Blush creates a cheekbone angle giving your face a sleek look.

Intensify with mascara. Let those lashes flutter with thickness! Mascara gives your lashes a thicker look, which makes your eyes speak "look at me" even louder!

Color with lipstick and nail enamel. It's the final touch to your B.A.S.I.C. face! Lipstick and nail enamel in complimenting colors gives you a finished look that suggests you really take care of the way you look.

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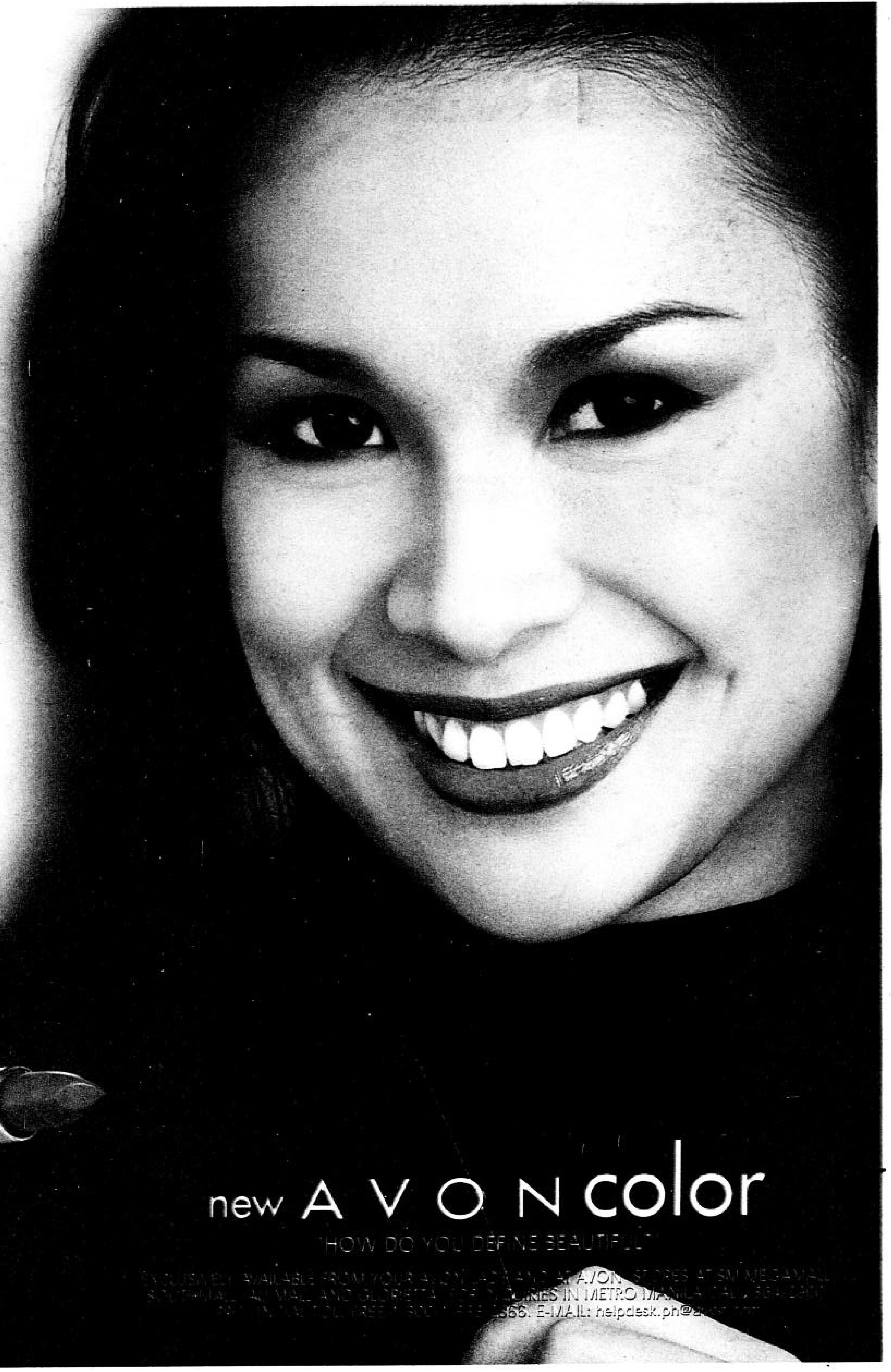
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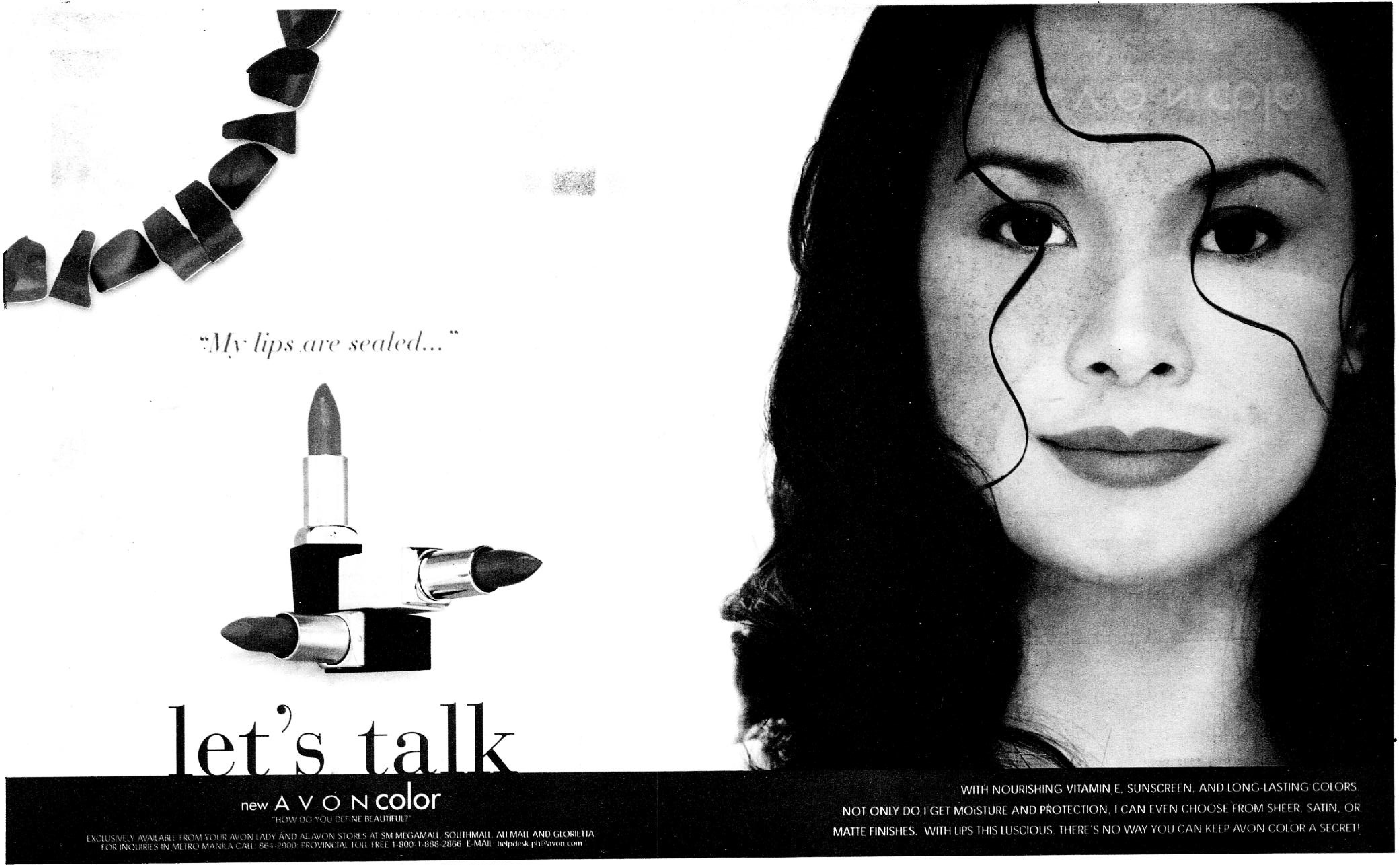

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Treat of the Week

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER D1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Delectably Miracled Papayas

1 cup water
1/2 cup sugar
1 medium papaya (about 1/2 kg.), half ripe (manibalang), cubed
1-1/2 tbsps. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. lemon rind
1 cinnamon stick
1 170 g. can NESTLÉ CREAM

Bring water and sugar to boil until dissolved. Add next four ingredients and cook until papaya is fork tender. Remove papaya from syrup and transfer to dessert plates. Continue boiling syrup until half the original quantity. Pour syrup over papaya, chill for about 1 hour. Serve with a dollop of cream. Serves: 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

WELCOME
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THE WACKY gang cools off between taping sessions on a beach in Palawan.

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'Bubble Gang' tapes summer special

BY JOCELYN VALLE

I'VE been here since four a.m.," says Ogie Alcasid, rolling his eyes. It's past five in the morning and most of "Bubble Gang's" cast and crew have arrived, huddling inside the modest arrival/ departure area of Pacific Air. In an hour, we'll be taking a flight to Palawan, occupying one 19-seater and two eight-seater planes.

Mainstays

From there, production people and mainstays Ogie, Ara Mina, Sherilyn Reyes, Assunta de Rossi, Wendell Ramos and Antonio Aquitaña, with guests Kevin Vernal, Maricar de Mesa and Ida Manzano, will get on a jeepney and board a barge to reach the location of "Bubble Gang's" summer special – Club Paradise in Dimakya Island, Coron, Northern Palawan.

And for the next two and a half days, they'll be cut off from the world – no newspapers, no TV—and no cell site!

Surprisingly, nobody's complaining. "It's an opportunity to work and at the same time have a vacation," smiles Michael V, who joined the advance party of Channel 7's gag show a day ahead of the others with his wife and two kids.

Besides, says GMA 7's assistant vice-president for production, Marivin Arayata, the stars have been briefed on what to expect from the trip. The production staff, after all, has spent a month making sure everything will work out to the satisfaction of the show's 62-person party, points out "Bubble Gang's" executive producer, Camille Hermoso.

Third time

This is the third time Channel 7's Friday primetime attraction goes on location since it debuted on the tube in October, 1995. Past destinations were Davao and Boracay.

Director Uro de la Cruz requires his production team to find a location that hasn't yet been featured, and they discuss it at the beginning of the year when they have a meeting on special episodes (e.g.: for their anniversary, Halloween, Christmas, New Year, etc).

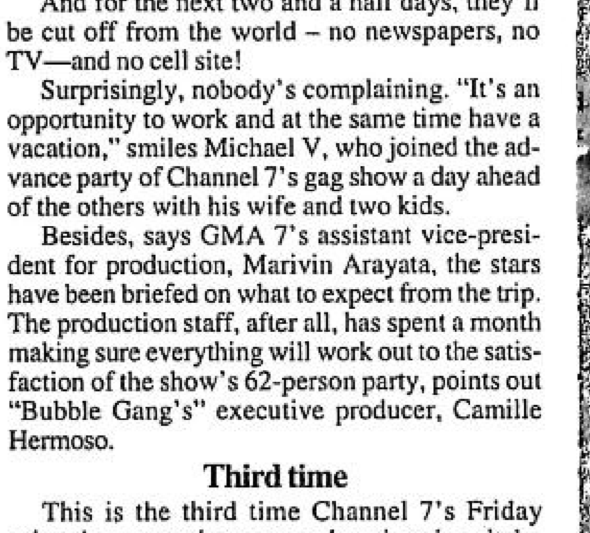
Direk went to Club Paradise last February and saw for himself the island resort's many picture-perfect spots and its exclusivity. There won't be any crowd to control, ensuring a brisk taping schedule.

Why do the people behind "Bubble Gang" (and practically all local shows) pack their bags come summer to go to known vacation sites?

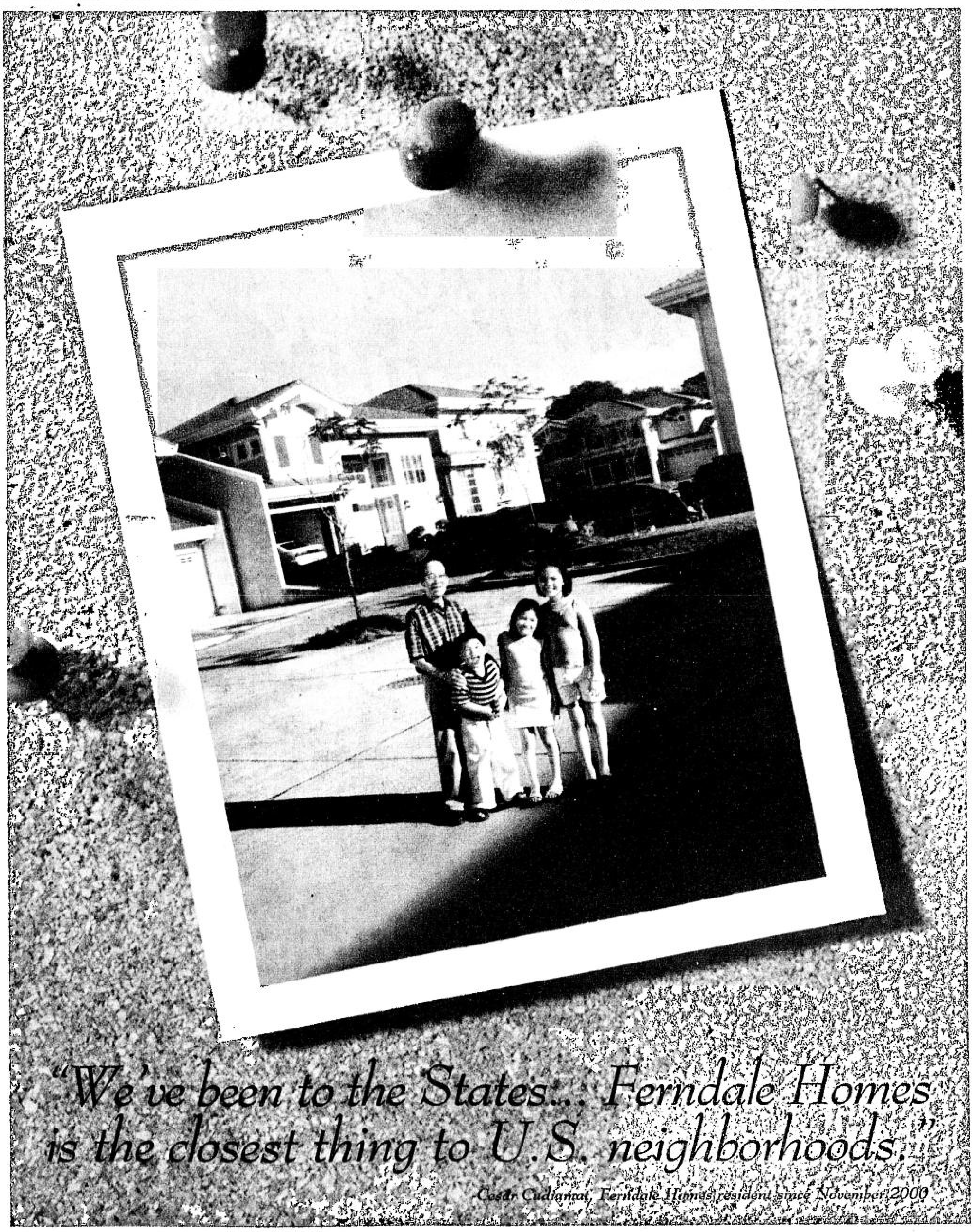
"To boost ratings," Arayata replies. "It's been proven to improve the show's viewership by as much as 50 percent. Curious *kasi ang mga tao dahil iba ang* atmosphere."

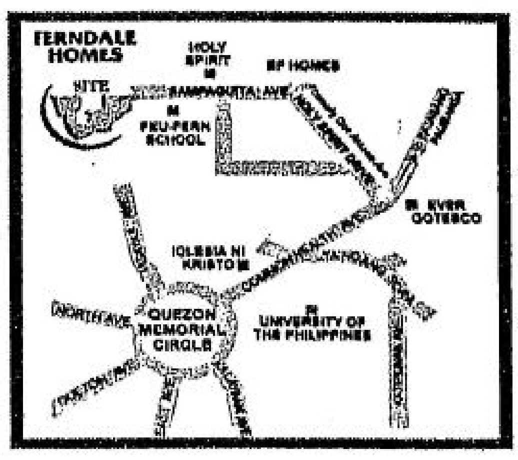
"*Ang* perception *nila, may* special effort *ang* show," adds de la Cruz. "'*Yung mga nakapunta na sa* location, *makaka*-relate *sila kaagad. Meron*

'BUBBLE GANG'/p.D6



THREE CASTAWAYS spoof Tom Hanks' latest starrer.


"We've been to the States... Ferndale Homes is the closest thing to U.S. neighborhoods."
-Cesar Cudiamat, Ferndale Homes resident since November, 2000



"We go to the U.S. now and then (in fact, my wife is there right now) and I still remember how I always marvelled at my sister-in-law's house during our first few trips. It was in a suburban residential development in Los Angeles. I told my wife, 'I'd like to live in a place like this.' But since the Philippines was still our home, we thought this was just wishful thinking. That is, until we visited Ferndale Homes. For a while, I felt like I was transported to the US. The cluster homes layout, the frontage without fences, and the architecture were all remarkably reminiscent of the higher standards of living we saw in LA. We also saw some really first-rate amenities -- a children's playground, swimming pools for kids and adults, a basketball court, and a clubhouse, and we could see how these actually brought the residents together and helped build a strong sense of community. We found out that the entire subdivision enjoyed maintenance and security care of Ayala Land, so we knew it was a safe and child-friendly environment. It didn't take us long to decide that this was the place we wanted to call home. And that's what we have called it -- for the past four months, and we anticipate, for the next 30 years or so."

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‘Memento’ is a movie you can’t see just once

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE

NEW YORK—There's this new movie—can't remember the name of it, but I know I really liked it.

The title is right on the tip of my tongue: one word, sounds like pimento. Oh, yeah, "Memento," that's it. Gotta remember to write that down.

It's about this guy ... a good-looking actor plays him, you've seen him before. Maybe in "L.A. Confidential"? He's Australian ... oh, yeah, Guy Pearce.

Memory problem

Anyway, Pearce plays a guy named Leonard Shelby who has this short-term memory problem. Within a few minutes of meeting someone or going somewhere, he, um, whatchamacallit. He forgets—that's it—people he's met or where he's gone. And that's sort of a problem, considering he's investigating his wife's murder.

Leonard has a unique way of jogging his memory, though: He takes Polaroid photographs of everything and writes little notes on the backs of them to remind himself who's trustworthy and what he's learned.

He constructs elaborate flow charts, linking the pieces he's found. And the really important factoids—details about the suspected killer—he tattoos in shockingly coarse black letters on his body.

Likewise, writer-director Christopher Nolan has a highly unusual way of telling Leonard's story: He does it backward, starting with the murder and ending with the events that led to it.

Did I mention that I liked this movie? "Memento" it's called, right?

Multi-layered

Nolan's story is so multi-layered, you'll stumble from the theater, reeling over what you just saw—or didn't see. Like our obsessed anti-hero, you'll remember the film in hazy, swirling strips of sight and sound.

It should come as no surprise that Nolan, 30, won the screenwriting award at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

He presents a scene, then in the next scene inches back a few moments from what you just saw and catches you up. Then he inches back some more and scoots forward. Details that perhaps made no sense the first time around fall into place.

Leonard meets—over and over again, without remembering—a bartender named Natalie (Carrie-Anne Moss), and Teddy (Joe Pantoliano), who may or may not be a detective.

Even as the film reaches a climax, it's not easy to figure out. We're inside Leonard's mind the whole way; we feel his confusion. Slowly, we learn more and more, but what we thought we understood and who we thought we could trust turn out to be not so reliable.

Nolan's approach seems a bit repetitive at first, almost gimmicky. But it doesn't take long to realize that what he's created is truly ingenious, and it must have been incredibly hard to craft the narrative in such a way and make all the details fit.

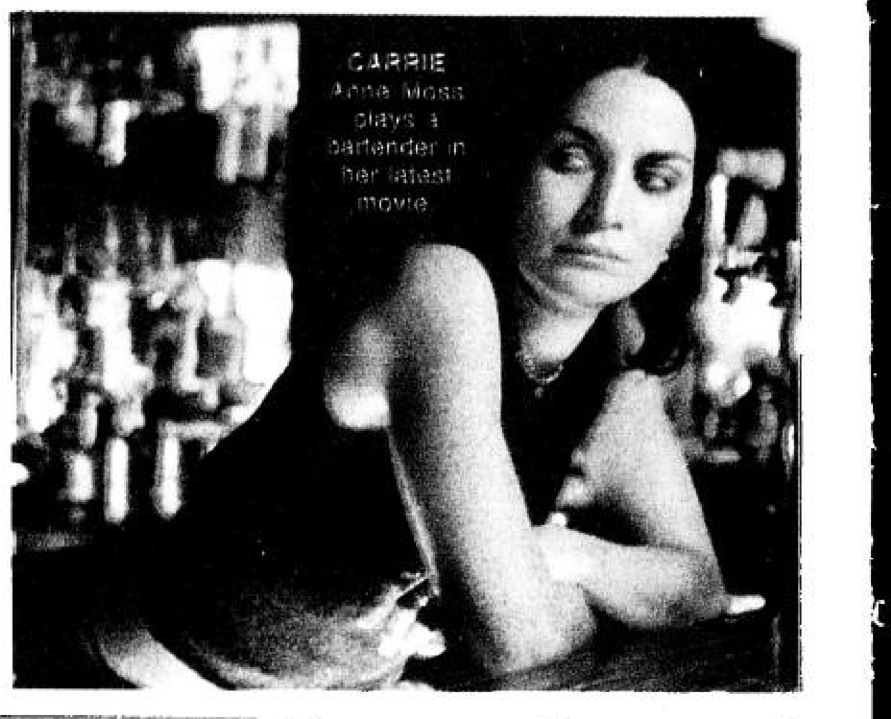
Refreshing

That is so refreshing in a movie world filled with recycled, mind-numbing dreck.

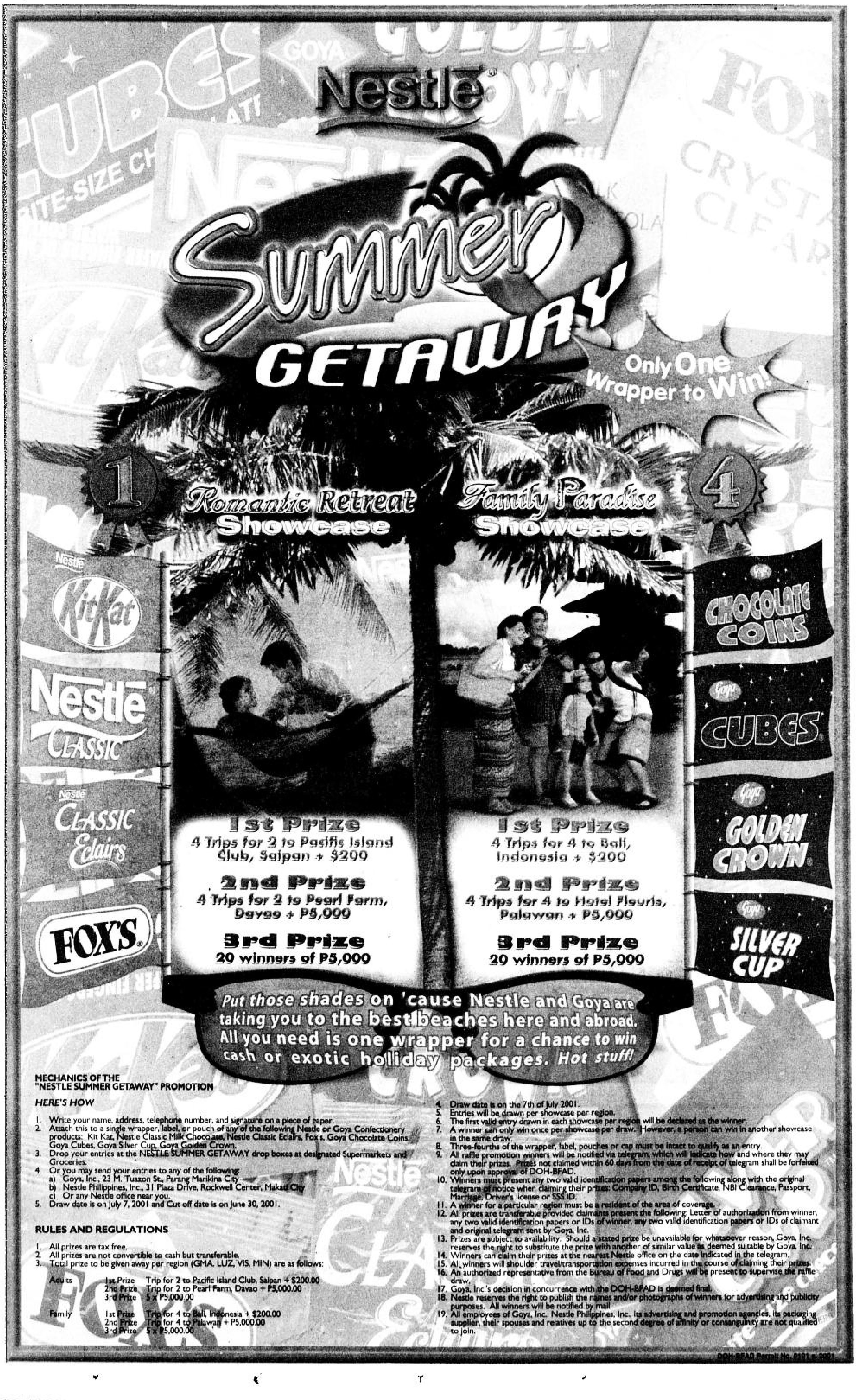
As Leonard, Pearce is dark and tormented. But every once in a while he makes a dry, low-key joke, bringing just the right amount of comic relief to break the tension.

Moss shows more talent—with infinitely better material—than her previous work in films like "The Crew" and "Red Planet." And veteran character actor Pantoliano, now playing a new character on HBO's "The Sopranos," is solid as always. The fact that he's so annoying, yet so impossible to stop watching, is a testament to his talent.

"Memento" is a movie you can't see just once. You have to go back to pick up the subtle nuances, the tricks, the clues. Even then, you may not catch everything, and that's why it's great. *AP*



CARRIE Anne Moss plays a bartender in her latest movie



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4 Trips for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000

3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

1st Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200

2nd Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Palawan + P5,000

3rd Prize
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HERE'S HOW

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2. Attach this to a single wrapper, label, or pouch of any of the following Nestle or Goya Confectionery products: Kit Kat, Nestle Classic Milk Chocolate, Nestle Classic Eclairs, Fox's, Goya Chocolate Coins, Goya Cubes, Goya Silver Cup, Goya Golden Crown.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at designated Supermarkets and Groceries.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   a) Goya, Inc., 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina City
   b) Nestle Philippines, Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   c) Or any Nestle office near you.
5. Draw date is on July 7, 2001 and Cut off date is on June 30, 2001.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Total prize to be given away per region (GMA, LUZ, VIS, MIN) are as follows:

Adults	1st Prize	Trip for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00
Family	1st Prize	Trip for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 4 to Palawan + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00

4. Draw date is on the 7th of July 2001.
5. Entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouches or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
10. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
11. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
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19. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0101 s. 2001

Lessons learned in current bold-film controversy

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

FOR a couple of weeks now, televiewers have been subjected to a loud, livid and acrimonious debate between liberals and conservatives over bold movies, freedom of expression and other combustible issues related to the furor over "Live Show," the MTRCB, etc.

Intimate medium

When you read about all this in the newspapers, the issues and arguments are relatively clear. On TV, however, they are a big, clangorous mess—which only proves that the "cool," intimate medium of television works at its worst when it has to deal with big, emotional and highly-charged issues like morality, censorship and artistic freedom.

However, television can't be prevented from dealing with this controversy, because it's so topical and its attendant fire, brimstone and fulminations generate the big viewership and high ratings that our TV channels covet.

Still, we wish that everyone involved in this mess strive mightily to get his act together on TV, so that viewers can benefit from and be truly informed and illuminated by the points raised in this continuing debate.

Lack of coherence

First, let's state that TV isn't solely to blame for this lack of coherence and genuine communication. Both sides—conservatives *and* liberals—are also part of the problem. Unless changes are made in the way they deal with this situation on television, viewers can lose all hope of trying to learn something cogent from this debate.

On the conservatives' side, one wonders why they field such hysterical spokespersons to convince the public that what they're doing is right. The minute they get on their high moral hobbyhorse, logical persuasion flies out of the window. We know many judicious and eminently persuasive religious and lay leaders in the Catholic church—why aren't *they* put on TV?

Sloganeering

The liberals have also erred by resorting to too much pat sloganeering in place of calm, dispassionate argumentation in terms that viewers can understand, and that don't turn off possible allies, thus further oversimplifying the debate into a "them vs. us" dichotomy.

Worse, some liberals fall into the trap of being as loud, livid and hysterical as the conservatives' self-righteous spokespersons. After a few temperate seconds, they often end up also screeching until they're blue in the face, leading viewers to wonder if the two sides are competing, not on point of logical persuasion, but of loudness and virulence.

Real point

Both sides have lost sight of the real point to this debate: to clarify the issues and to get the public on their side. Since both sides end up screaming at each other, we get very little of this, and precious TV time is wasted.

This is because the opposing sides are thinking only of their mutual animosities, that their side is better than the "enemy," etc., and few of the verbal combatants think of the listening and viewing public, who will ultimately be the victims or beneficiaries of how this controversy will finally play itself out.

Subjective ends

The public isn't stupid, it senses when it's being used for subjective ends, and it hates being shouted at—after all, it isn't deaf. Maybe the two sides' spokespersons are?

In any case, here are some more caveats for both sides: Don't "evaluate" a movie without first seeing it. Don't call anybody "*Kampon ni Satanas*," "Padre Damaso," etc. Don't villify the Catholic Church.

Don't say that it's useless talking to the other side, because its proponents are stupid, or just refuse to listen. Don't have hidden agendas.

Don't call makers of bold movies sinners. Don't build yourself up at the expense of the side you're supposed to clarify and defend. Just—don't!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Pops Fernandez is a perfectionist

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA
AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

POPS Fernandez admits that she works hard for her two sons, Robin and Ram. "When drastic changes happen in our family, I consult them right away before they hear it from somebody else. Call it a mother's touch. I'm grateful because they're growing up to be polite, intelligent and quite mature for their age," Pops beams.

Pops says her favorite restaurant is Le Souffle because of its good food. But when she's malling with her sons, they go to Pancake House and Sugi. Aside from her career and sons, her other passion is clothes. "I like to browse when I shop but, if I see a specific thing that I really like, I buy it without thinking of the price," she confesses.

No wonder she's always well-dressed. How would she define her style?

"Personal style should be comfortable, not contrived. It's also a matter of simplicity and understated elegance. I like to wear clothes that are casual, but at times I want to be trendy and hip, especially with my hair."

She adds that she tries to look different everytime she has a concert or a movie. She calls most of her early films "forgettable" and feels that working with Maryo J. de los Reyes fulfilled her need to be an actress.

"I learned a lot from Maryo. I think it's important to develop a bond with your director which is based on respect and trust," she intones.

She wants to grow as an actress, TV host and singer. She wants to be open to all the opportunities that are coming her way. She also dreams of directing and writing scripts someday.

What relaxes her or upsets her? "Not dealing with the outside world, staying at home with my kids and watching movies relaxes me. I'm a perfectionist and I get peeved when things don't turn out the way I want them to in relation to my career or private life," Pops relates.

Porkchop makes us laugh

Laughter is indeed the best medicine to lift flagging and weary energies. Renato "Porky" Gomez and Romeo "Choppy" Vargas, collectively known as "Porkchop," did give us a comic boost when they launched their VCD for Star Records last week.

An established comic tandem with almost 10 albums to their credit, Porky and Choppy's timing, comic punch and chemistry have enabled them to perform in the US, Australia, Asia, Europe and Middle East.

Stand-up comedy was unheard of during the '70s and hotels preferred lounge acts to comedy. "It was a struggle then. Managers wanted performers to sing instead of act. There were times when male listeners asked us to leave the stage because *dumadaldal lang daw kami.* At least now, they appreciate what we're doing," Porky grins.

Porkchop goes for the American kind of stand-up comedy. They use punchlines to draw laughter from the crowd while injecting Pinoy humor. "Our jokes have double meaning. The audience can interpret our jokes as green or not," Porky says.

"At the same time, we try to remind our audience that everything is temporary. Real happiness can be felt in heaven," Choppy adds.

When they launched their VCD at Rembrandt hotel, they sang Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Nat King Cole songs. They also did old hits like "Only You," "My Diary," "Crazy," "Twilight Time," and "Unchained Melody." And they also have their own novelty songs.

Porkchop is grateful to the Reycards for opening the door to Filipino performers abroad. Because of the Reycards' influence, they have done several "Hatid Saya" concerts for OCWs abroad.

UNICEF teams up with Viva Films

There are many ways to extend our help to the underprivileged, specially in third world countries like the Philippines, where children comprise a large percentage of the marginalized segment of society.

Tonight at 8 at Glorietta 4 , we can help the poor by supporting the premiere showing of Viva Films' latest family drama "Abakada...Ina," which is inspired by the lives of real women overcoming illiteracy through the female functional literacy project of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Australian Aid Foundation.

The inspiring film by comebacking director Eddie Garcia stars Lorna Tolentino as a no-read, no-write mother who faces the many challenges of life, family and society armed only with a pure heart and simple dreams.

We caught a preview of the movie and were made more aware of the problems confounding the illiterate. Toelentino gives a truly remarkable performance that moved many in the audience to tears. Also impressive were Matet de Leon, Aiza Marquez and Joanne Quintas.

Catch the film's premiere showing and help UNICEF help the children and the women who are the beneficiaries of its programs in health and education. Call UNICEF at 892-6545 or 892-0611 local 259.

PORKCHOP. Prefer stand-up comedy, American style.

FERNANDEZ. Personal style should be comfortable.

VERANO. Exponent of the pop sound of the '50s.

Summer theater workshops

Gantimpala Theatre Foundation is offering a wide range of summer workshops that will kick off on April 18 at the Fairview and Bacoor branches of SM SuperMalls.

Courses included acting for television, movies and commercials, basic acting, children's theater, children's and adult ballet, street jazz, ballroom dancing, voice, visual arts and taebo.

Call Gantimpala at 8958314 or 8979986.

Verano redefines Pinoy rock ballads

If you keep on hearing the song "Lorena" on the radio these days, it is because it is being talked about as the next big hit of summer. Sung by Renz Verano, "Lorena" tells a sad tale about losing one's love because of circumstances rather than by choice.

Verano's new album has 11 tracks that retain the sweet rock flavor that the singer worked hard for before it became his trademark. An added bonus is the inclusion of the early pop sound of the '50s and the '60s in some of the songs, specifically Manuel Malinlin's ``Sulat" and ``Crazy."

THE CAST OF "ABAKADA...INA." Unicef is sponsoring a premiere of the movie tonight at 8 at Glorietta 4.

HSBC

Easter Egg Promo

Bring home an Easter Egg filled with Easter sweets and treats with a minimum purchase of P300.00 at any participating store in all SM Supermalls. Get them now!!! Available from April 1 to 15, 2001 only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1986 Series of 2000

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TIME : **11am to 5pm**

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SM City Iloilo - April 4
SM City Cebu - April 5
SM City Fairview - April 7
SM Megamall - April 8
SM Southmall - April 14

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MUNSON AND WILSON: Painful odes to interpersonal struggle.

Semisonic sets up another round for success after making it with 'Closing Time'

By Joosh L. Dickey

MINNEAPOLIS—Semisonic frontman Dan Wilson bought himself a new piano as a reward for the success of "Feeling Strangely Fine," the 1998 album that opened with the Grammy-nominated "Closing Time."

Permanent home

That ubiquitous single vaulted the indie-pop-rock trio out of the Midwest, parked itself on pop and rock radio for a year and found a permanent home at baseball stadiums, where the ding-dong-ding-dong keyboard intro announces a game's final innings as the closer jogs to the mound.

Wilson's paean to the lustful trolling at last-call-for-alcohol stands alone as the band's only major U.S. hit. Three years later, Semisonic is looking to peel off the one-hit-wonder label.

The song's final lyric: "Every new beginning/Comes from some other beginning's end," could prove prescient. After all, the hit single begat Wilson's new piano, and the spindly, bespectacled songsmith's new ivories are the musical bricks and mortar for "All About Chemistry," Semisonic's latest batch of Minnea-pop-olis tunes.

Unlike the 1998 album, Wilson's signature buzzsaw guitar on "Chemistry" is an accessory on most songs, rather than the glue—in the same way that three- and four-note keyboard leads adorned Wilson's guitar-driven rock of old.

"Dan wrote a lot of the new songs on that piano," said bassist John Munson as he sat back on a lumpy coach at a trendy Minneapolis coffee shop to discuss the group's new work.

Keyboard style

"A lot of the emotion and a lot of the harmony is keyboard style as opposed to guitar style. On 'Feeling Strangely Fine,' I think a lot of the songs were written from a more folk-music point of view, and Dan wrote it all to hold up on acoustic guitar. Then the keyboard parts came in later."

"Now, it's almost the opposite," Wilson said, finishing Munson's thought. "'Chemistry' is like, sort of this banging piano thing, and the melody that comes in and out, instead of being an electric keyboard, is the guitar. So it's this kind of reversal that's happening."

Wilson and Munson, two-thirds of the Minneapolis-based group, talked about the album shortly before its March 13 release (drummer Jake Slichter was ensconced in his own gift to himself following the band's success: a New York apartment).

The pair were visiting family and friends before kicking off their U.S. tour in Atlanta.

Munson and Wilson used to deftly plunk out Wilson's more Spartan keyboard leads while simultaneously playing their respective guitar parts in concert; Now, they've tapped keyboardist Chris Joyner, a former hired hand for Semisonic's Minneapolis rock compatriots Soul Asylum, to handle Wilson's more intricate piano accompaniments.

"All About Chemistry" is the band's first foray into self-production. Without an outside influence, Wilson and Munson said, they were able to stay truer to their own aims.

New sound

So far, Wilson said, the band's new sound is taking its time growing on some fans who got advance copies.

"We just got an e-mail from a guy who said, uh, 'What happened? Why are you different? Why did you change from the perfect formula you had going?' And I thought, wow, people are so eager to, like, quickly decide whether something is right for them or not ... I just know that that person won't feel the same way about the album even a week later."

Added Munson: "If it doesn't surprise you, then what's the point? That's my whole listening life: I'm like, 'I hate it!' ... wait, 'I love it!' You know? If there's not a little bit of that, it's not as fun."

What hasn't changed about Wilson's song writing is the preeminence of painful odes to interpersonal struggle. There's no better example than "Act Naturally," the album's third track, a lilting, lover-to-lover supplication to hide from everyone else that something in the affair is horribly awry.

"I think everybody's had that experience of like, 'Please, lie for me—at least for the next couple of hours.' And it can be a lot of different relationships—it's part of coping with social versus personal. I think (messed-up) families go to church and everybody just acts naturally. And everybody in their family knows they're lying."

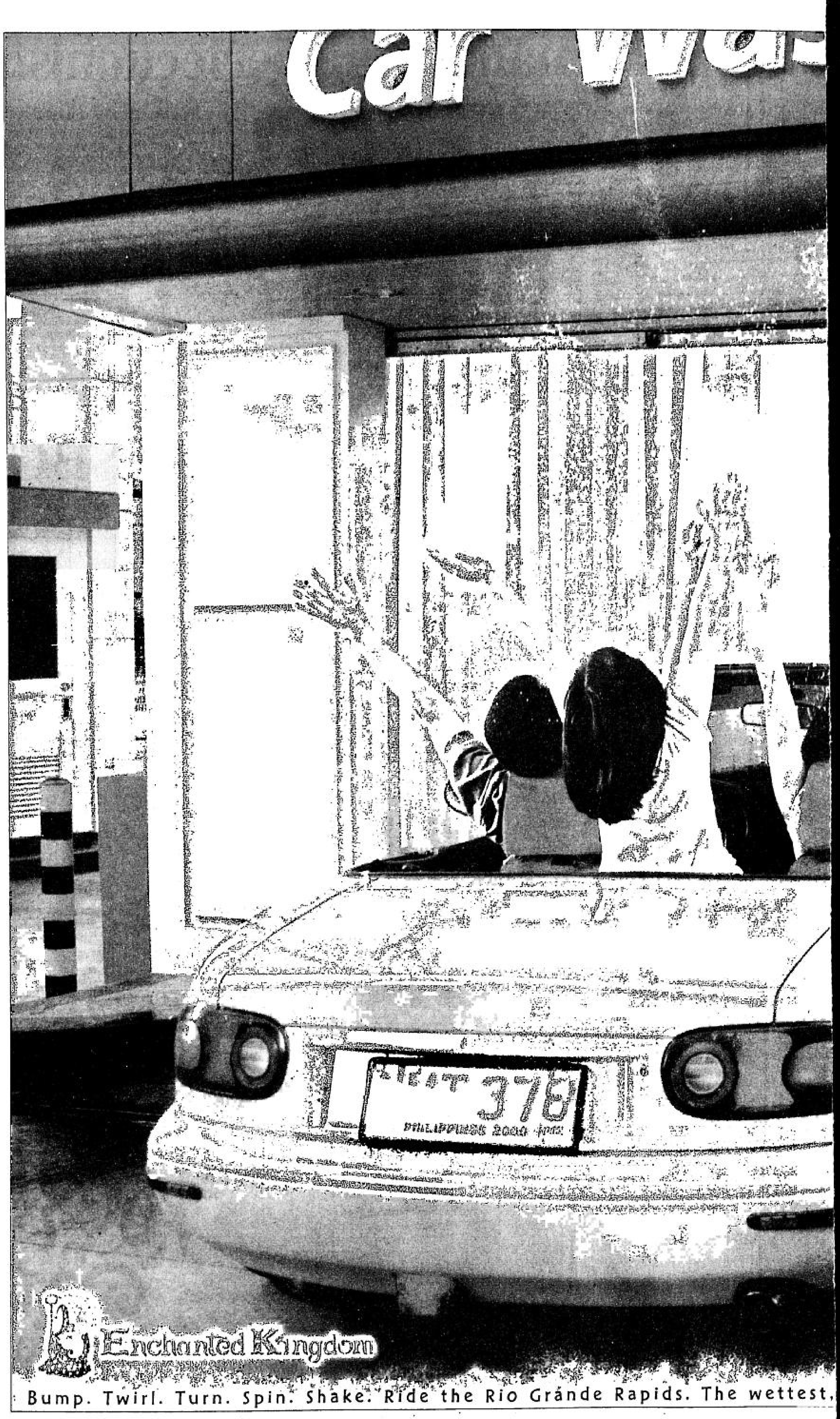
Deeply personal

Wilson admits that the deeply personal nature of some of his lyrics are difficult to put on display.

"I mean, I'm from Minnesota," he said. "It's sort of embarrassing to talk about feelings or private things or whatever. I come from a land of frozen people, you know? Like, when stuff happens, we're always saying, 'Oh, I'm fine. It's OK. We can sew it back on ... just don't look at me anymore."

But what has endeared Semisonic to the masses is their penchant for pure pop-rock bombast. And one thing Semisonic refuses to do: Shrug off the success of the single that put them on the map.

"'Closing Time' is still a damn good song," Wilson said. "It's easy for us to keep playing it because it's really good." *AP*



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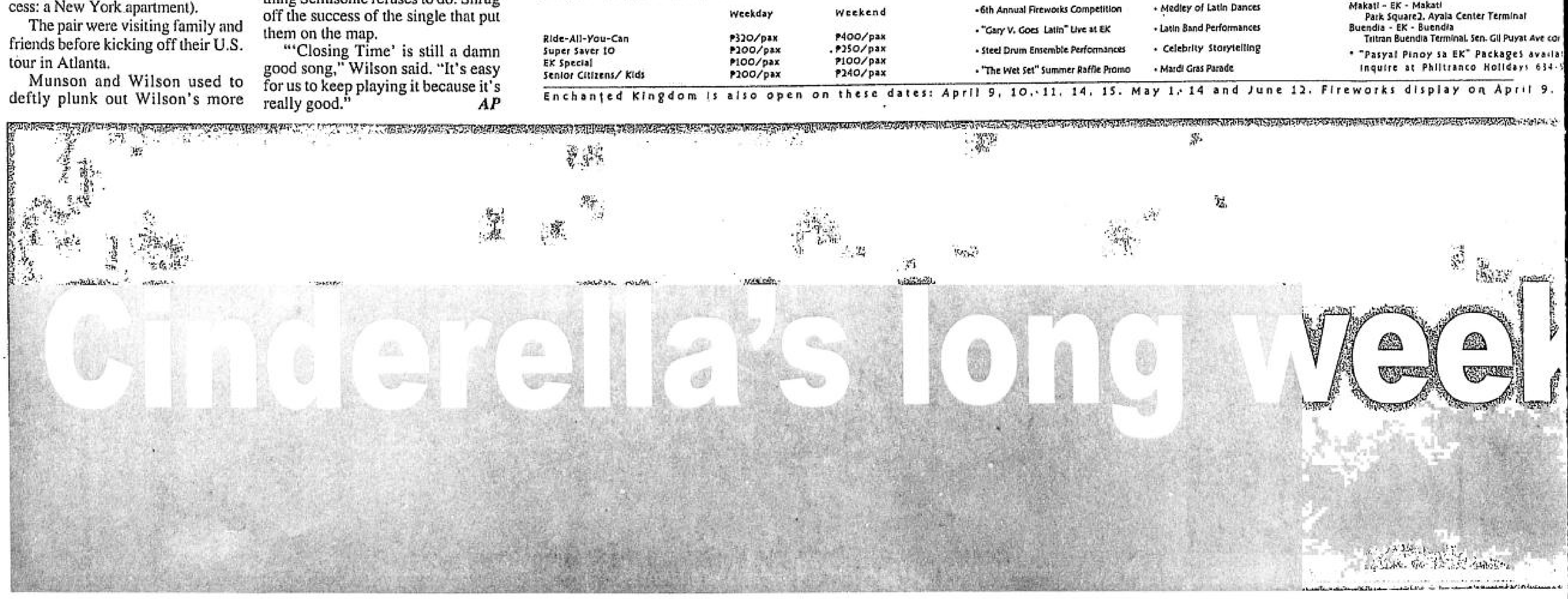

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14, 15, May 1, June 12 and weekends. Enchanted Kingdom will be closed on April 12, Holy Thursday and April 13, Good Friday.

THE VICE MAYOR WITH HIS CONSTITUENTS. The calling was simply too strong to ignore.

Fisher of men

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

SINCE the election fever started late last year, I have been focusing on various actors who are running for public office. I am in the fortunate position of knowing these people's strengths and weaknesses since we belong to the same circle—show biz.

Impact

But last week, I had brunch with a non-show biz public servant, Navotas Vice Mayor Toby Tiangco. We were introduced by a mutual friend sometime ago and though he had already made an impact on me (he was very good-looking and intelligent). I never thought I would end up one day in his lovely house in Greenhills.

Never did I think, too, that I would have such a great time engaged in a very animated and pleasant conversation regarding anything and everything under the sun. Talking to Toby and his beautiful (and dutiful) wife Michelle, I got glimpses of the little lost boy inside the assured man over a hearty meal of coffee, waffles, *tuyo*, chicken *longaniza* and fried rice.

You should hear and see this man talk. Toby is a very engaging speaker and tells stories with so much passion and intelligence. He is insightful and thinks before he speaks. He's big on hand movements as he recounts stories about his favorite topic, the town of Navotas. This is his story:

Specialty

Toby has spent practically all his life in Navotas. Coming from a family of means engaged in the processing of fish, the specialty of the place, Toby drove to work everyday.

One day, while on his way to the office, his eyes were suddenly opened to the filth and disorder of the streets in his hometown. Suddenly, a strange feeling came over him, one he had never felt before. "I want to beautify this place, to change it. I want to help my people," he thought.

He envisioned a place similar to Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. "It can be done," he told himself.

Day by day, the vision grew more vivid, until he couldn't contain it anymore and surprised everyone by announcing that he was going to run for public office to realize the dreams in his head.

You must understand that Toby had an unfortunate experience before this. Though I cannot disclose the details, it is one of those experiences that will make you think twice before even stepping out of your house.

It would've been easier for Toby had he decided to just live a low-profile life. Many people discouraged him from entering politics. In fact, his father warned him, "*Sakit ng ulo lang yan, at delikado. May negosyo naman tayo, dun ka na lang mag*-focus."

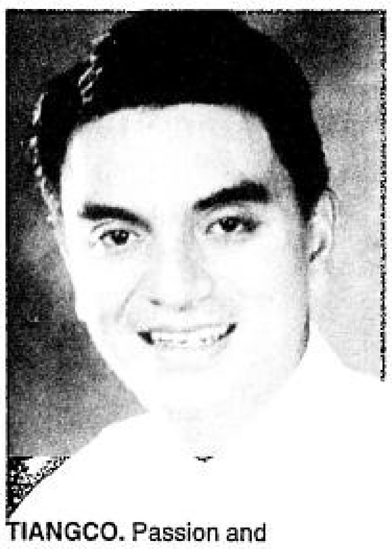
Calling

But the calling was simply too strong to ignore.

Until one day, in June 1998, Toby Tiangco became Vice Mayor of Navotas. When he assumed public office, not everything was a bed of roses.

His problems were further complicated by Navotas Mayor Bautista's passing away only a year after Toby's proclamation. Worse, the Navotas Municipal Hall burned to the ground. All records and documents pertaining to Navotas and its residents went up in smoke.

Still, Toby settled down to work. Knowing full well that he did not possess the experience and knowhow of a seasoned politician, Toby compensated for this by using what thing many politicians have ignored: heart and wisdom. Like a father who wants to teach his children the value of virtue, Toby set out to show the people of Navotas how to appreciate and respect what's written in the law. Discipline, that was what he had in mind.



TIANGCO. Passion and intelligence.

Resistance

Of course, there were complaints, and much resistance from tricycle drivers who refused to line up (causing traffic in the process) and the street vendors, who had taken over the streets. But Toby remained firm in his belief. To win the people over, he initiated a dialogue with them. "I don't believe in rash decisions or actions—*pag makukuha naman sa usapan*, why not?" he shares.

Toby is the kind of public servant who tries to maintain a balance between his public calling and his family life. I know this is the one of the reasons why he has chosen to live in Greenhills. He wants to spend private and quality time with his family—as a good father to their son Tommy and a good husband to Michelle.

Here is a man who's willing to work himself to the bone to serve the people—with nothing to gain that he does not have already have.

He was willing to go against the wishes of his father because he believed he *could* make a difference.

Faith

I am reminded of one of my favorite passages in the Bible, Luke 5:1-11. It tells of Jesus teaching his disciples how to fish using faith.

That through the grace of God nothing is impossible. That faith coupled with love for others is enough to effect change.

Toby told me, "My relationship with God is extended to the people. I want to see God in the changes in people's lives, and for the people to see God by way of my serving them. I still dream of a better Navotas."

Once again, God has called someone to cast His net to bring people closer to Him—a fisher of men.

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Five questions for Grace Slick

By Kim Curtis

SAN FRANCISCO—Psychedelic rocker Grace Slick, who drank and drugged her way to 1960s icon status as lead singer for the Jefferson Airplane, has turned to painting as her creative outlet.

Last year, she returned to the city that spawned a movement—and her stardom—for a gallery showing of her work, priced between $1,100 and $8,700. Her paintings include portraits of musicians she knew years ago: Jerry Garcia, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix.

Paintings

The gallery showed Slick's work for about six weeks and sold about $50,000 worth of her art, said Artrock gallery owner Phil Cushway. Her paintings of Garcia and white rabbits were among the most popular pieces. (Slick wrote the '60s hit ``White Rabbit.")

"People just go crazy over Grace," he said. "It was just an amazing response."

Her studio is the dining room of her Malibu, California, home. "It's the usual nutty-looking slob artist arrangement," she said. She works about a week on each painting.

Brief excursion

Slick, 61, has made it through two failed marriages and from Jefferson Airplane to Starship to her own short-lived solo career. She made a brief excursion into pop with Starship in the 1980s, then quit the music business a decade ago. Q & A:

How do you want people to see you now?

Slick: Unstoppable lunatic. It's pretty much what I see in the mirror.

Why lunatic?

The reason I put "lunatic" there is because if you compare my life to most people's lives, obviously there's a screw loose there somewhere, but I wouldn't have it any other way. When you get old you don't regret what you did, you regret what you didn't do.

Are you romantically involved with anyone at the moment?

No.

What are you most proud of?

My persistence. I don't usually give up.

When has persistence been the most useful for you?

With everything. It comes in with art, it comes in with relationships, it comes in with physical disabilities. You just don't stop. Unstoppable lunatic!

AP

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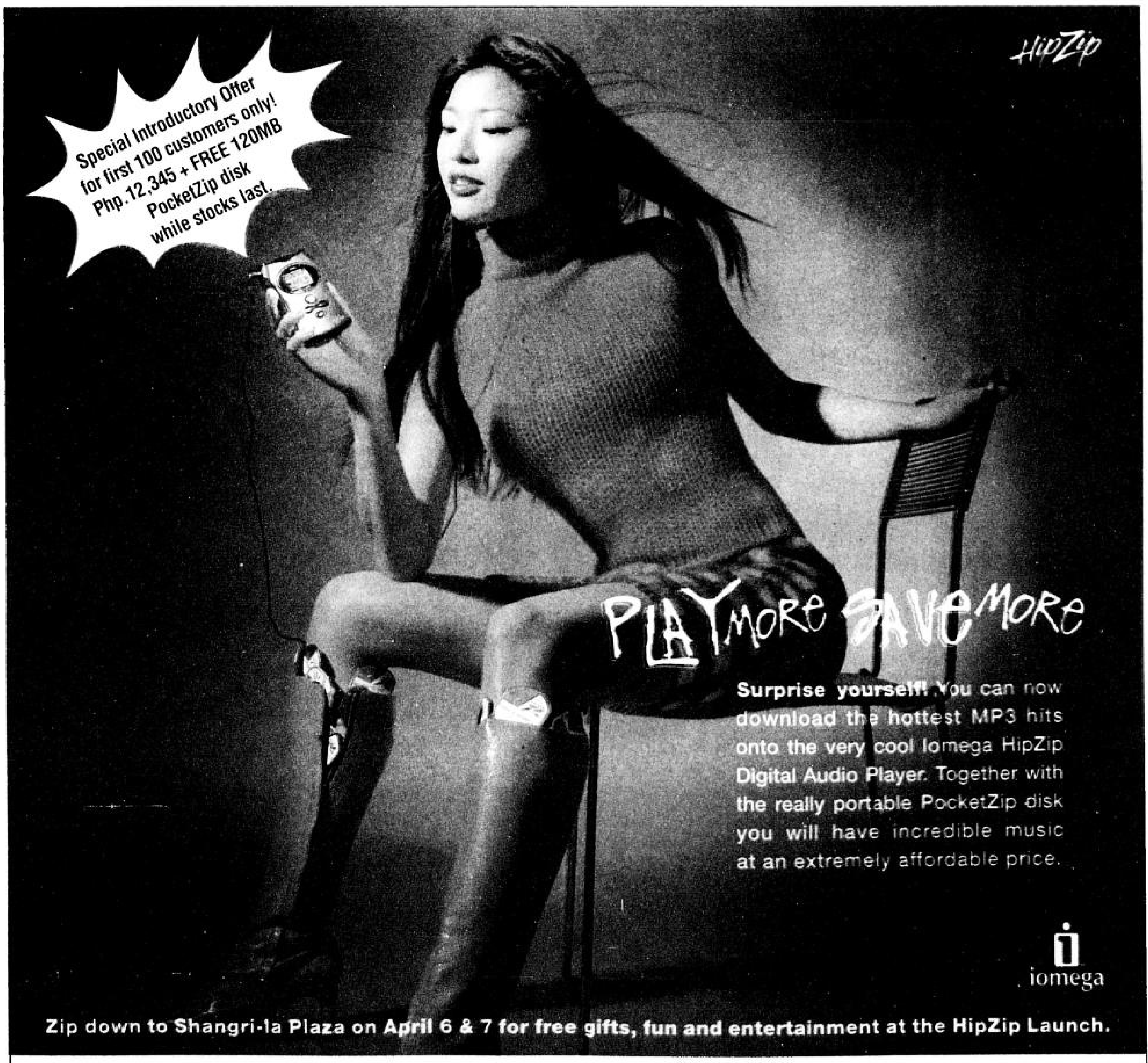

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'Bubble Gang'

(From page D1)

din namang point of reference *ang mga hindi pa nakakapunta dito. 'A, ganyan pala d'yan.'* And of course, *nakaka*-excite *din 'yung makakita sila ng mga naka*-bathing suit."

Additional budget

Arayata shares that the network gives them an additional budget for out-of-town tapings, but they also make it a point to get ex-deals and discounts. They tape two episodes to maximize their efforts. The first installment of "Bubble Gang's" summer special, for instance, was shown last night (April 6) and the last part will be aired on the 20th.

The stars don't ask for a higher fee. "*Pero alaga din naman sila*," GMA's amiable executive tells us, adding that doing the summer special is a treat for the talents and crew alike.

But this doesn't mean the excursion is a picnic, it's a lot of hard work, too. Right after the "Bubble Gang" group got to Club Paradise and had lunch, the cameras started grinding, taping the show's crazy gags and antics on the beach.

As expected, they taped spoofs of the Hollywood hit, "Cast Away." But, when *Direk* and his writers were trying to concoct kookiness related to the Tom Hanks starrer, they were also thinking of a more general, thus more familiar, theme – the marooned man on an island.

"For those people who've seen the movie, *makaka*-identify *sila kaagad makita lang 'yung lalaking* bearded, but not for those who haven't watched it. So you have to add an element that will make the gag entertaining to *everybody*," explains de la Cruz, who's also at the helm of "Beh, Bote Nga" and "Bitoy's World."

Skull

So when "Bubble Gang's" viewers see the marooned man talking to a skull, those belonging to the AB crowd will remember Tom chatting with a volleyball he's made into a virtual pal. The CD group will simply find it hilarious for a person to converse with a skull.

At nighttime, the Bubble Gang moved to Club Paradise's bar/game room to tape wacky takes on situations related to summer, vacation, and the like. They wrapped up at 9 p.m. but the production staff still had a meeting in preparation for next day's shoot that would start at 8 a.m. Apparently used to getting only a few sleeping hours, Ogie, Ara, Wendell and Antonio opted to go to the swimming pool.

It's a wonder then that they still looked their on-cam best the following day. Well, it helps that both cast and crew have genuine chemistry and remarkable professionalism. By dinnertime, tapings for the summer special were officially over, and it was time to party till the wee hours of the morning.

Six years

After almost six years, the people behind the gag show have become truly a gang, *Direk* happily reports. Michael V, who's also the show's creative director, agrees. When he left Channel 5's "Tropang Trumpo" to form the nucleus of a new gag show for GMA 7, he felt great pressure to equate the success of his old program. "But I've found out that the secret is in the cast's being comfortable with each other," he maintains. "*May* bonding, *dapat*."

"We have the commitment of all people involved," writer-director de'la Cruz enthuses. "We always remind ourselves not to be complacent. Each episode is a challenge. People expect to laugh when they watch the show, and they should do that—a lot!".

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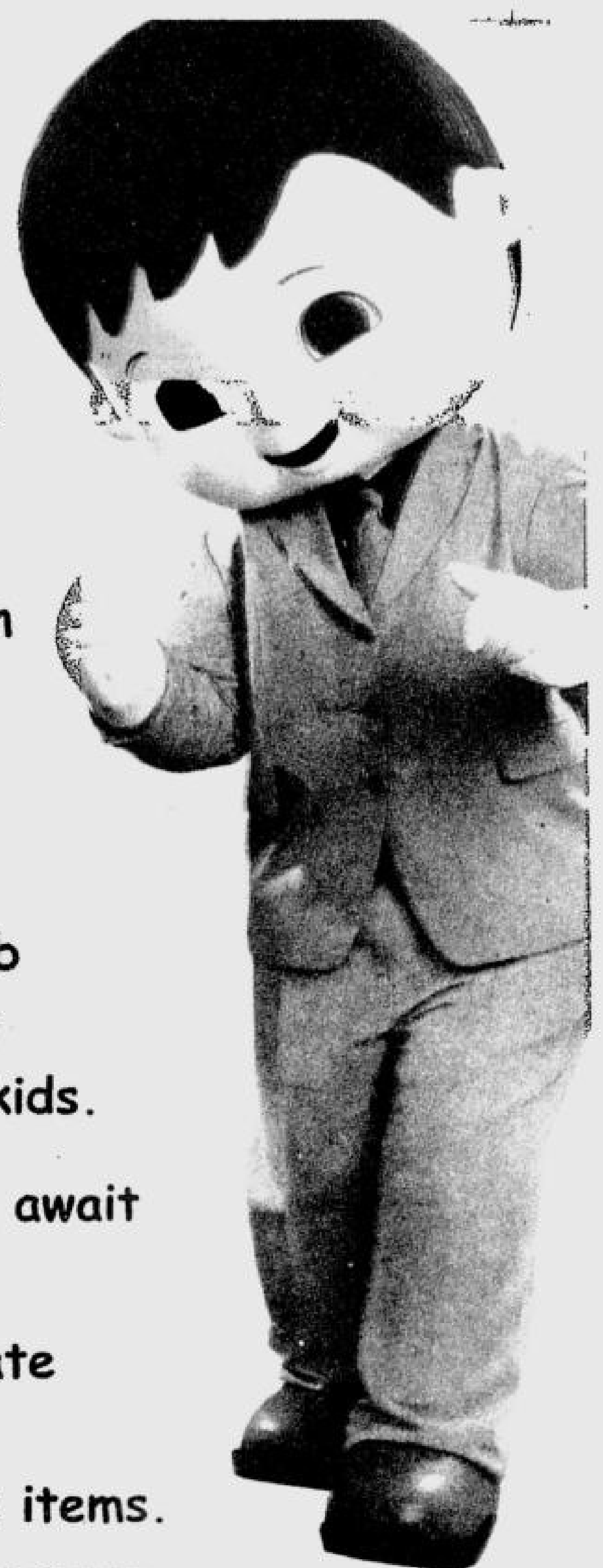

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Frederick seems to have the fashion world at his feet. "Until now, it surprises me to get unexpected calls in the wee hours to do a show abroad. Or from a client who has moved out of the country. Imagine I can still **make business even if it's at that time!**" he enthuses.

Indeed, Frederick's international success is enhanced by Globe Handyphone. "I feel blessed to know **I'm accessible to all these people through my Globe.** Especially when I got this call on being featured in a Paris coffee table book along 15 other fashion designers all over the world. And I'm the only Filipino! Calls like these inspire me to improve my craft," he reveals.

During his annual immersion in Europe's fashion capitals, Frederick really appreciates Globe's **International Roaming** feature. "It gives me a feeling of being home despite the distance—I don't feel alone at all. I feel revitalized when I hear my son's lively chatter or retrieve sweet messages texted by special friends. And when I win competitions and look for someone to share that triumphant moment with, all I have to do is **call using my Globe,**" he shares.

And even when he goes around the country, Frederick enjoys **seamless communication** between him and his staff. He tells us: "I coordinate with my staff at the shop on how to execute a particular design while doing a fashion pictorial in Boracay or scouting for locations in Palawan. **Globe really makes my business more convenient**—as if I have an assistant designer—when in fact I don't!"

"In fashion, one always has to think global. And **I can't imagine myself without my Globe,**" Frederick attests.

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Saturday SPECIAL

ENYA. Down-to-earth and simple.

ALBUM REVIEW

Enya's songs celebrate life and nature

'A Day Without Rain'
ENYA
Warner Music

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

LISTENING to this album can relieve you of stress. Each song soothes the senses and gets you in the mood for introspection. It psyches you up to look forward to each day without worry, fear and anxiety. Each song urges you to welcome things as they come.

Enya is down-to-earth and simple, thus each track here gives you a simple visualization of what life should be. In our fast-paced, technology laden society, having a lazy afternoon is a welcome change. This album makes you want to curl up in bed, listen and tune out the outside world.

Early in her career, Enya collaborated with Nicky and Roma Ryan to create interesting melodies and sounds. This album is the product of another collaborative effort, but sounds better than their previous attempts. It seems that Enya's five-year absence from the music scene has allowed her to be more creative and unique.

She performs each cut delicately and weaves a mood that is peaceful and serene. "One By One," "Lazy Days," "Pilgrim" and "Fallen Embers" mirror Enya's depth, intensity and sincerity as an artist.

All the voices you hear in the original compositions here are Enya's voices recorded one by one on top of each other. These are then set up against the backdrop of piano, strings and percussion (instruments which she plays herself). The multi-layered harmonies give the songs a dream-like feeling.

"Wild Child" encourages us to take a joyous, passionnate approach to life. The lyrics, "Ever close your eyes, ever stop and listen, ever feel alive and you've nothing missing. You don't need a reason, let the day go on and on" push us to pause from our hectic and busy schedules and savor each moment. The song also wants us to let our worries go and just allow events to gently unfold.

"Only Time" is a sweet ballad that stirs your emotions without being too mushy or sentimental. The lyrics, "Who can say why your heart sighs, as your love flies, only time" remind us that there are no guarantees in love. The song wants us to wait gently and have no expectations.

"Tempus Vernum" is a Latin-inspired song. Without understanding the lyrics, you can sense through the melody that it aims to celebrate life and nature.

The whole album can be labelled as New-Age, old Irish, pop and techno all at the same time. But each track stands out on its own.

'Movie Moments'
OGIE ALCASID
MCA Universal

ALCASID

IF YOU'RE a movie fanatic, this album is a must-have because it allows you to recall the old movies you saw while you were growing up. Sure, you can always buy a soundtrack album to make you remember your favorite movie but if you like only one song in that film, you'd be wasting your money on a full soundtrack album.

"Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" is hard to describe. Regine Velasquez's version is more popular, but Ogie's version has more feeling. He pours his heart and soul

ENYA'S/p.E5

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Lorna Tolentino on the ABCs of motherhood

By Remy M. Umerez

ACTRESS, wife and mother—of these three roles, Lorna thinks being a mother to two boys is the most difficult but fulfilling.

Not spoiled

"I am blessed because they are good children and God-fearing, as well. They are disciplined and definitely not spoiled. I am very proud of my boys," she says.

Lorna always finds time to be with her children—they go malling, swimming, eat out or drive out of town. She helps them with their class assignments and attends school functions.

She realizes that, while books and consultations with other parents are of tremendous help, there's nothing like first-hand experience in learning the ABCs of motherhood. A mother may stumble along the way, but she gets up and bravely faces the task ahead, no matter how trying it may be.

It has been a delicate balancing act raising Renz and Ralph. The communication lines are always open for solving problems. For a man-to-man talk, there is always their father Rudy to approach.

College

Foremost in all parents' minds is giving their children the best possible education. Rudy and Lorna are aware of this and it is their hope that both Renz and Ralph will finish college. Entering show biz is the least of their sons' priorities. They prefer to study, read books and tinker with computers. Renz loves to write letters and poems, most of them dedicated to his mother.

As an actress, Lorna only does roles that are to her liking. For a great role, she is even willing to lower her talent fee. To devote most of her time to her family, she limits her screen appearances to two projects a year, at most.

Lorna gets top billing in Viva Films "Abakada... Ina" in a role that she easily empathizes with. She portrays an illiterate mother who dreams of giving her three children the education she never had. She learns how to read and write for the sake of her children.

The actress considers this role as one of the best in her brilliant career. She is totally deglamorized, the exact opposite of her image as one of the loveliest and best-dressed women in the country.

Husband

She has nothing but praise for her co-stars, like Albert Martinez who plays her uncaring and at times ruthless husband, and Nida Blanca, who portrays her overbearing mother-in-law.

"When you work with actors who are professional, acting becomes a joy. You truly feel inspired," she says.

Comebacking director Eddie Garcia shares the same sentiment. When informed about the good actors he was going to handle, he couldn't say no to the project.

Jointly written by Shaira Mella Salvador and Ramon Rey Bayron "Abakada... Ina" also stars Matet de Leon, Aiza Marquez and Hannah Camille Bustillos (as Lorna's children).

TOLENTINO. Tackles one of the most challenging roles in her career.

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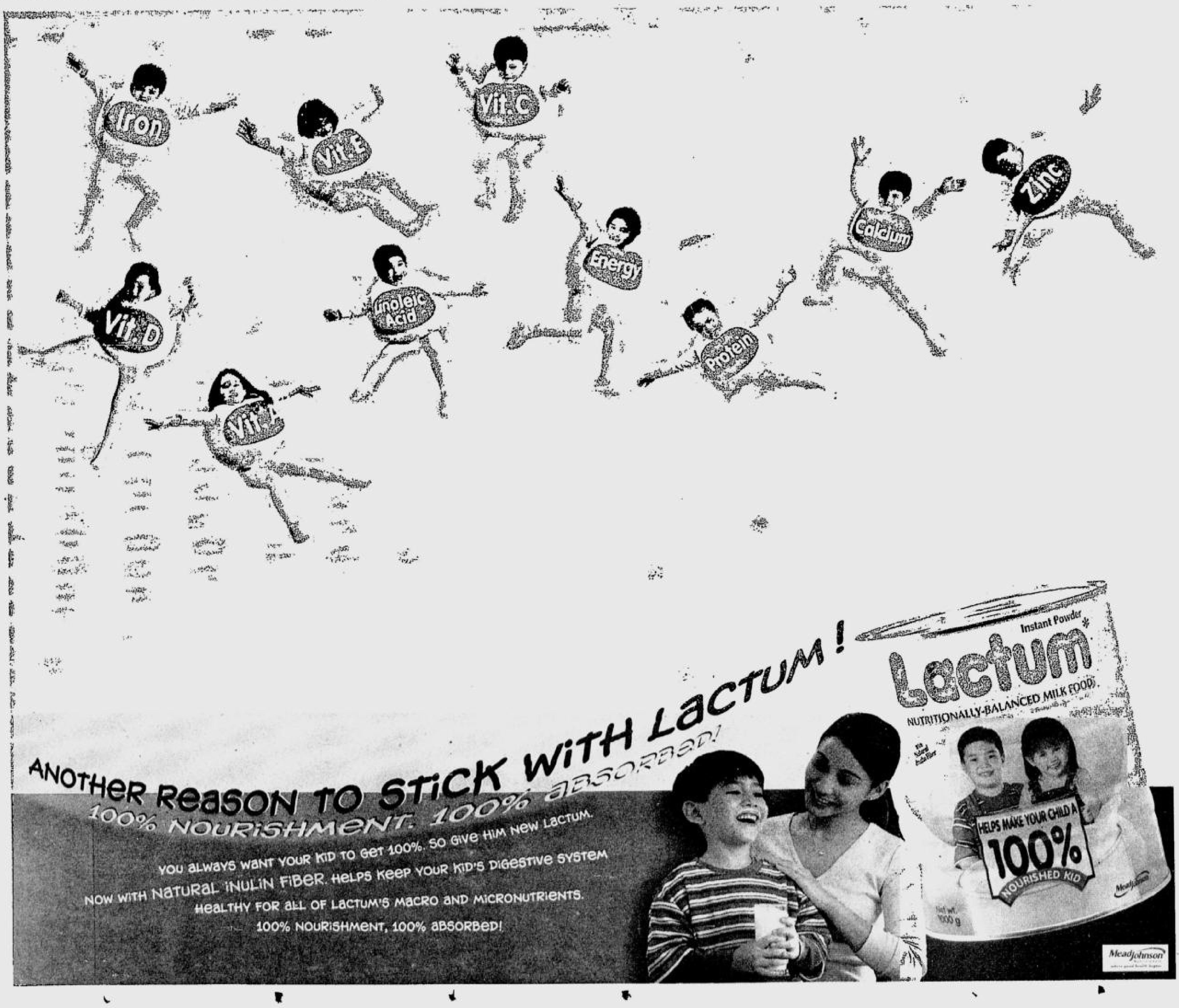

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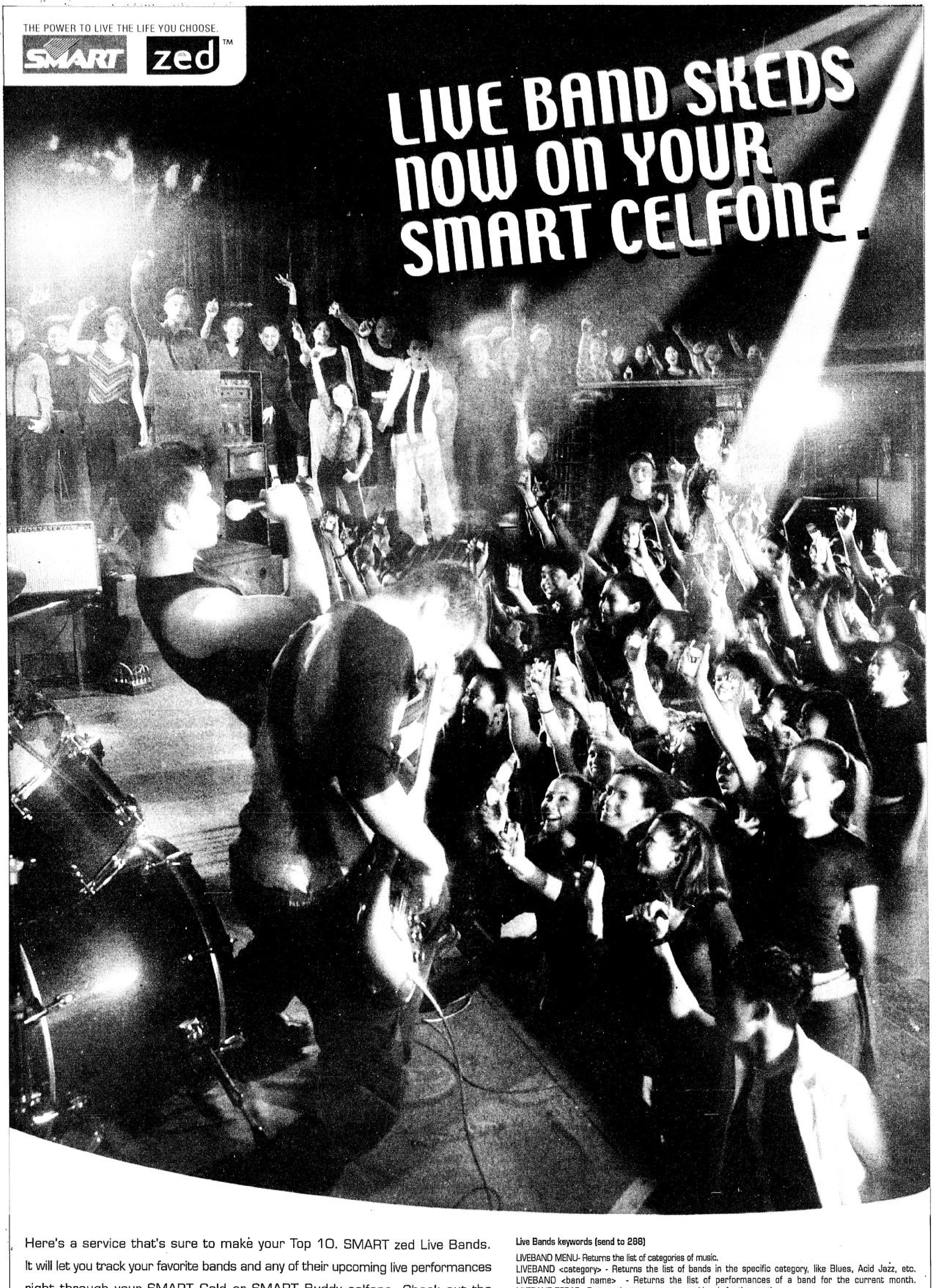

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Melon Silverio wants to make a difference

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE first district of Makati is home to the wealthiest of the country's families, residing in beautiful homes in six villages representing 20 percent of Makati's population, while 80 percent belongs to the lower classes, many of whom huddle in slum shanties only a few streets away.

Two extremes

Melon Recto-Silverio grew up on Paraiso st., Dasmariñas Village. Educated at Assumption Convent, she's running for a congressional seat to represent these two extremes of Makati's social spectrum (under the Lakas-NUCD and the PPC, with Edu Manzano for Mayor and Dean Barbers for Vice Mayor), against Armida Siguion-Reyna and Teddy Boy Locsin.

Who is Melon Recto-Silverio and why is she doing such a "crazy" thing as running against two celebrities, both with formidable resources, in this year's election?

Melon is unfazed by the prospect of competing against her political rivals because she believes her strength lies in her track record of service performed for Makati's poor. Melon's long service to the poor began when she headed a feeding program from 1974 to 1978.

In 1983, like millions of other Filipinos, Melon was profoundly transformed by the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Like others of her class, she joined the grim masses who thronged the streets in defiance of the Marcos dictatorship.

But her transformation seeped into the spiritual aspect of her life. She became drawn to a contemplative way of. life and tried to enter a religious community. Many prayers later, she decided that the change she sought could be fulfilled in a life outside the community's walls. She joined the Secular Order of St. Francis of Assisi.

She embraced St. Francis' love for the poor and for his poverty. She and her husband Albert closed their brokerage and trucking businesses and devoted the next few years to serve the poor.

Clinic

Melon established a clinic in the impoverished barangay of Maricaban, Pasay from 1983 to 1987. Being Makati-based, she sought out the poorest of Makati's barangays, and she and Albert adopted Barangay Singkamas. There she established a scholarship program and a medical-dental clinic for children from 1983 to 1985.

Her numerous projects included assistance for disaster victims such as the Baguio earthquake victims in 1990, the people displaced by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 and flood victims in Catanduanes in 1994.

SILVERIO. Long record of service.

Melon even went as far as helping displaced Aetas relocate to a piece of land where she provided them with housing, a school and a clinic.

Melon narrates, "We gave them goats, chickens and pigs. We helped about 300 families and now it is a model community. They are able to harvest because we planted big trees and developed upland rice farming."

Not content with her projects for the poor, Melon ran and won as Kagawad of Makati in 1989, and served until 1994. She also became a board member of CRIBS, an organization that cares for abandoned babies and victims of sexual abuse. All the while, she continued her active involvement in church activities, serving in the lectors and commentators ministry and becoming Vice Minister Prefect of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Miserable

Realizing that the poor of Makati are as miserable as ever in spite of Makati's reportedly P5 billion income, Melon decided to run for the first district seat of Makati to uplift their lives. On Ash Wednesday, Melon served as a lector and heard the words of the second reading, "You are ambassadors for Christ." Melon took these words as a clear sign to proceed with her candidacy. Melon's goals as a representative are housing, health and education. She considers her lengthy record of service to the poor her best advantage against her political rivals. She observes, "If you are going in there only now, then it will be difficult for you. But my entry into slum areas is not difficult because I understand the poor, their needs, hopes and dreams."

MELON and Albert (right) with their children Martin, Twinky and Carla.

Tranquility

One look at Melon's air of soft-spoken calm, and one wonders how this tranquility can stand up to the intense passions generated by the elections. "I believe I have a good chance as far as the grassroots votes are concerned," Melon declares.

"It is my hope that I can make a difference in people's lives. I've psyched myself to face the grim realities of politics but I'm also prepared to fight. I am here because I believe in good government. I am here because I want change!"

DE LEON. Intelligent and experienced.

Young viewers pick country's best actors

BY NOELANI TORRE

ONE would assume that young people would choose performers their own age when asked to name the best actors in the land. Wrong! In fact, all of their picks are actors definitely not in their age group, and some of them haven't been on the movie screen for quite some time. When we asked them to cite the country's best actors, most youths actually rejected younger stars, saying that "teeny-bopper" talents were "*hilaw*" and primarily "*pa*-cute."

Versatility

Versatility was what the young viewers looked for. Only one actor, Christopher de Leon, got chosen thrice. Still, it is good to know that the young still bother to watch Pinoy films and can recognize good acting when they see it. They had one common demand, though: Make more good movies! They thought it was a shame that the talents of some good actors were being wasted. Their detailed responses:

"Cesar Montano. One of the best-known and most-admired actors of our movie industry, he has always been my favorite. Given any role to play, be it drama, comedy or action, he handles it so well and so naturally.

"As a movie personality, his life is an open book. When interviewed, he is always honest and sincere in his answers. I see him as a really romantic person who's not afraid to admit it. I also liked how he portrayed the title role in 'Rizal.' He made the hero seem really Pinoy and more believable."—*Pretchyl Victor, 20, Baguio City*

"Christopher de Leon. He's been around for quite a while, since the '70s. He's got lots of

YOUNG/ p.E5

Is your kid ready for the big world?

Your growing child is definitely a growing wonder. He never fails to show you something new each day, and sharing these precious moments is one of the greatest treasures of parenthood.

Significant developments on your toddler's body and mind

During his first three years, your toddler goes through a series of rapid physical and mental development. The speed of your kid's development during his first year is truly amazing. He's already taking his first steps, and is always on the go. Also, he can already identify the different parts of his body. At age 2, he uses words to express what he wants. By this time, he can already run so get ready for a lot of chasing! By age 3, he can already follow simple instructions and can even recite his ABC's and nursery rhymes. As a parent, it is always exciting to see your child breeze through one milestone after the other. But keep in mind that his optimal growth does not end here.

Importance of your toddler's physical and mental development

Your growing kid needs not only an active body but also an equally active mind to explore everything around him. So it's best to help boost his optimal physical and mental development in his early years. Remember, it's a big world out there and your toddler needs both his body and mind for the various challenges ahead.

AGE (MONTHS)
HEIGHT
AVERAGE HEIGHT FOR AGE

Tips to aid in your toddler's development

To ensure your toddler's optimal growth, good nutrition should be first on your list. It is best to give your child a variety of foods ranging from bread, rice, vegetables & fruits, to milk, meats, fish & eggs. He needs to eat foods rich in Protein, Fats, Carbohydrates, Iron, and other essential vitamins and minerals to keep him fit and active. Also encourage your kid to drink several glasses of water for children's bodies are more prone to dehydration than adults.

For your child's daily diet, milk is considered the most essential to help boost his optimal development. Your toddler doesn't always have a big appetite every meal so his growing-up milk plays a crucial role in supplementing his growing nutritional needs. But not all Growing-Up Milk (G.U.M.) can give your child the nutrients that he needs to be fully developed. So it's best to choose the right brand that will ensure both your child's optimal physical and mental growth,

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How the MTRCB does its work

By Veron Dionisio

THROUGH the years, the issue of censorship has always been hotly contested. Conflicting notions of what constitute the highest standards of morality give way to varied points of view from the government, church, academic communities, filmmakers, etc.

Morality

Censorship has always been related to the issue of morality. It is as if censorship could save and preserve existing standards of morality. And morality, at times, has been equated with sex-related issues. Sex has often been the focal point in the discussion of morality.

The controversy surrounding the banning of "Live Show" shows how complicated the issue of morality is. Opposing views amplify the depth and breadth of how the country regards sex in the politics of everyday life.

In midst of these conflicting views, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board's relevance and significance have been put into question. What is the extent of its powers? What is its mandate?

Social ills

Until now, many viewers have not yet seen the late Lino Brocka's critically acclaimed and controversial film, "Orapronobis," because the MTRCB banned it from public exhibition. Thus, new generations of film lovers have been deprived of a film that realistically portrays the prevailing social ills in the late '80s.

There were other films that we almost failed to see, like "Hinugot sa Langit," "Sibak," "Abot-Kamay ang Pangarap," "Ang Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya," "Schindler's List," "The Piano" and "Curacha." These were just some of the films that the MTRCB initially rated not fit for public viewing.

But why is there an MTRCB? Why do we need a regulatory body like this for the film and television industry?

The MTRCB was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1986 in the midst of the mounting problems the film industry was facing in the mid-80s. President Marcos was alarmed at the state of local filmmaking, which he feared could drastically affect the country's economy.

The main objective of the law was to develop unity between the industry and its regulatory body, the MTRCB. Under the law, the MTRCB had not only been tasked to review and censor films but also to initiate steps that would pave the way for the cinema's growth, not just as a key player in the economy but also as an art and catalyst for social change.

Multisectoral

According to the law, the Board would be composed of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and 30 members to be appointed by the president. The Board should be multisectoral: five members should come from the Philippine Bar, 15 from the film and television industry, while the remaining members must come from other sectors.

The process of reviewing films is done in three steps. The first review committee is composed of three members coming from different orientations—liberal, conservative, and ultra-conservative. When this committee disapproves a film, a second committee composed of the Chairman or his representative, the Vice-Chairman and three other members of the board, reviews the film.

If this committee also disapproved the film, it would go to the Appeals Committee under the Office of the President. The producers of the disapproved film may appeal to this committee to request the reversal of the MTRCB's decision.

We clearly saw this process in what happened to films like "Schindler's List." Then Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona had to step in to reverse the MTRCB's decision so we could see the film without cuts. The same thing happened to "The Piano" and "Ang Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya," when the Board initially gave them an X classification. *(To be concluded)*

NEW classification board chairman Alejandro Roces.

Young . . .

(From page E4)

"I remember watching Vilma and Christopher movies in grade and high school, and I already liked him then. I believe he was better when he was younger. His roles were more demanding and challenging.

"If better directors handled him today, he could be a lot better. I still think he's great, though."—*Lynelle Espina, 17, Zamboanga del Sur*

Dark side

"Joel Torre. I liked him in 'Rizal,' where he played Crisostomo Ibarra/Simoun. His performance there was intense, and I thought that he was very successful in bringing out the character's dark side. He is a very versatile actor and he can take on a lot of roles and make them work.

"He also played Rizal in 'Bayaning Third World.' Now, that was a great film. I don't know why, but I found his Rizal hilarious - in a good way, of course. They should use this guy more often—and not in Rizal-related roles only."—*Mario Fealani, 19, Iligan*

Flexible

"Christopher de Leon. He can do any role, he's really flexible. His foreign counterpart would be Mel Gibson. Like Gibson, he knows how to use his eyes and other facial features in creating character and expressing emotions. He can act in any type of movie— drama, comedy, suspense.

"Plus, he's received a lot of awards. They prove that he really has acting talent. He's not that good as a host, though. He's really at his best in drama."—*Charlene Flores, 17, Butuan City*

"Eddie Garcia. He can take on any role given to him. He can play a *bakla*, a good guy, a villain - anything and everything! He's received a lot of awards and he's still getting them now, even if he's already a senior actor. He has no equal.

"I watched 'Hukom Bitay,' and I was impressed by his portrayal of the judge. It was as if he really was the 'Hukom Bitay.' He can make you believe what you know isn't true. Don't you think that's the mark of a good actor? He can beat all those younger actors—look how he upstaged Cogie Domingo in 'Death Row."—*Hazel Nuñez, 17, Masbate*

Scary

"Albert Martinez. He was scary in `Scorpio Nights 2.' He made my hair stand on end, actually. He was able to make the transformation from an attractive and decent professor into a sex-starved maniac in a believably smooth way. Not 'chop-chop' at all.

"In "Ang Lalake sa Buhay ni Selya,' he played Rosanna's gay husband. His portrayal was not stereotypical, not at all like the disgusting ways some other actors depict a gay personality. He's quite versatile and that's very important in an actor."—*Arnie Gavilan, 20, Pangasinan*

"Christopher de Leon. He's intelligent and experienced. He's worked with the best directors, and that makes a big difference. He tackles his roles naturally—very believable! He has matured a lot since his early roles, and has improved with age and experience.

"I watched him in 'Ganito Kami Ngayon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?' He was young then and you could see he had talent. But he's better now that he's older."—*Butch de Juan,22, Romblon*

Enya's . . .

(From page E1)

into the song because it's his own composition.

"Moment By Moment" (an Yvonne Elliman original) is the theme song of a movie starring John Travolta and Lily Tomlin. Ogie's singing is laid-back and mellow and it gives the song character.

He brings soulful sophistication to "Reality," a popular song from the French movie, "Ready for Love." However, he sounds better when he's singing about loss, pain and heartbreak.

His performance on "For All We Know" and "What Would They Say" requires more depth, sincerity and maturity to be true and meaningful. Sometimes he hits a couple of off-key notes.

"Ready To Take A Chance Again" imparts a sense of emotional pain and sacrifice. It's almost gut-wrenching to hear him sing this song.

"It Might Be You" is relaxed and in command. His voice is vibrant and full. His instincts are in the right place in this song.

For karaoke aficionados, Side B has the minus one of each song, and you can sing to it.

So far so good. Ogie sounds best with slow-paced ballads and should steer clear of R&B songs.

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

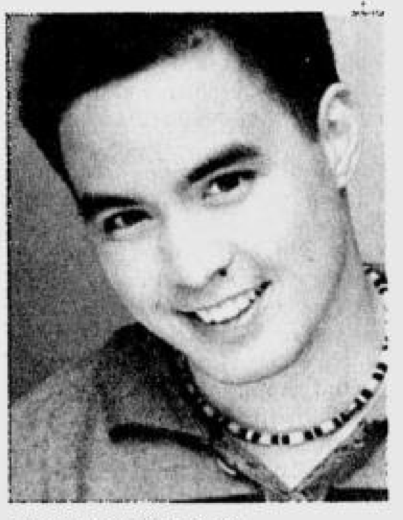
Miriam Quiambao works hard on 'Extra, Extra'

By Edmund L. Sicam

WE ran into beauty queen Miriam Quiambao at a presscon last Wednesday evening but she was not at the head table. She was on the job as a co-host of GMA's 5:30 p.m. magazine program, "Extra Extra" waiting in line with the rest of us to interview former members of Spandau Ballet who are here for a concert. She was trying her best to look inconspicuous in her *maong* skirt and *maong* jacket—and failing miserably.

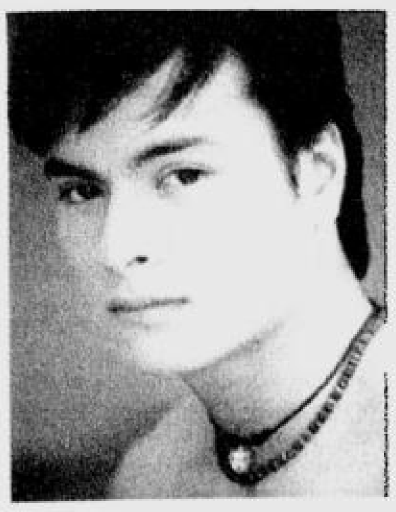
Miriam had been up since 3 a.m. because of her early morning show "Unang Hirit" which goes on-air at 5 a.m. After the show, she had to tape her spiels for "Extra, Extra," then there were errands to do in the afternoon. When she got to Nth Degree in Malate for the Spandau presscon, it was already 9:30 p.m. but she looked like she could still host a late night talk show.

We asked her how she managed to have so much energy left after a hard day's work. "I take a lot of catnaps during the day," she said. This she does when the crew travels from one location to the next. She has learned to sleep in vans, airplanes and other modes of transportation. The new format of her show calls for Miriam and co-host Paolo Bediones to go out of town regularly, so she's learned a lot about the different regions in the Philippines.



BONDOC. No more unnecessary purchases.

The show has gone to Bohol and is planning trips to the Banaue Rice Terraces and Marinduque. While most offices will only have two working days during the Holy Week (April 9 is a holiday), "Extra, Extra" will only be taking Good Friday off and will be working the rest of the week, according to Miriam. The special effort seems to be paying off. We are told that "Extra, Extra" is giving ABS-CBN's "Balitang Kris" a run for its money.



ROSELL. The latest discovery of Talent Center.

Despite her hectic schedule, Miriam said she had put on weight. That's because after a grueling schedule, she compensates for her tiredness by eating a lot. We looked at her shapely body and wondered what she was talking about and why she was complaining about the additional pounds she's put on. She still looked drop-dead gorgeous but she confessed that she needs to exercise and get rid of unwanted fat.

When it was time for Miriam to interview the singing group, she took off her jacket to reveal a sleeveless outfit, and she looked once again like the beauty queen who was runner-up at the Miss Universe contest.

Onemig gets serious

Young actor Onemig Bondoc says he is now more serious about his career. The actor has landed an important recurring role in the ABS-CBN horror series "Okatokat" and there are plans to put him in other TV shows. Star Cinema has also signed him up for a youth oriented movie "Trip" which will co-star him with Jericho Rosales, Marvin Agustin and Kristine Hermosa. He admits that if he doesn't get more committed to his profession, he might find himself not getting any more assignments. "*Tama na muna ang pabandying-bandying*," he quips.

Onemig says he has also realized the value of money and has cut down on unnecessary purchases. Before, he was always spending money on his many hobbies like jetskiing and his collections. Now, he thinks twice before digging into his wallet.

He is turning 24 this year and there are lots of things he wants to accomplish before he turns 30 like being successful in business, going back to school to pursue a course in business management and make something of his acting career.

Eventually, he wants to tackle more mature roles but he is still happy doing youthful characters. Although there are many actors in his age bracket aspiring for superstardom, he says he doesn't want to compete with them. He would rather compete with himself and try to exceed what he has already accomplished.

Talent from Norway

Norway is associated with the midnight sun, the singer Bjork, salmon and cold, cold weather and very soon, with Rafael Rosell.

Rafael who? Rafael Rosell is the latest contract star signed up by ABS-CBN's Talent Center. He was born and raised in Stavanger, Norway, but is 100% Pinoy. His parents are the former Amelia Quimpo from Cebu and Rafael Rosell from Bicol. The elder Rosell is a geologist working for BP-Amoco.

He is in the latest Close-Up commercial where he exchanges arrows with a pretty girl. This is the first time Unilever has used special effects in the company's commercials.

It was his mom who persuaded Rafael to send his photo and resume to Talent Center after she came here for a vacation. He then received a call from Talent Center's Dave Fabros to come for an audition, but there was no assurance that he would be accepted.

QUIAMBAO. Hectic schedule.

The 18-year-old decided to come home and try his luck. He passed with flying colors and is now going through a training program along with other hopefuls. One of the things he has to learn is to be fluent with Tagalog. Although he is pure Pinoy, he grew up in Norway.

Right now he is living alone, with his parents' blessings, and looking forward to a successful career in show business.

Seiko Films' Robbie Tan is in movie production to stay

By Andy Bais

WHAT do Rosanna Roces, Priscilla Almeda and Klaudia Koronel have in common? Aside from their being sexy and controversial stars, they were once handled by Seiko Films producer Robbie Tan. The list also includes Cesar Montano, Jestoni Alarcon and even the semi retired Gretchen Barreto. After all, Seiko Films has been in the business for the past 18 years.

Robbie doesn't deny the fact that his film outfit is synonymous with adult-oriented films with 'memorable' titles like "Talong," "Kangkong" and "Patikim ng Pinya."

Why did Seiko Films concentrate on making adult-oriented films? "Producers are market-oriented. *Ang* bold films *ang kumikita*. And I can't compete with the big companies when it comes to family pictures, *kasi kulang ako ng mga* stars *na* wholesome," the producer explains.

"*Mahirap din ang mag* build up *ng mga* teenage stars because *wala akong* venue for that, and television is a big factor when you want to build up teen talents.. *Paano sila makikilala? Di sila puwede sa* print *lang*. Unlike bold stars, *na ipakita lang ang kanilang* cleavage, *kilala na sila*."

ROCES, MONTANO AND BARRETTO. Only some of Seiko's early discoveries.

But Robbie stresses that Seiko Films has also done quality films with ace directors like Lino Brocka and Laurice Guillen. "The movie, "Lumayo Ka Man Sa Akin" by Laurice is my favorite. *Ang ganda-ganda ng pelikulang 'yon. Kaya nga lang*, my quality films were marketed as sexy films, *kasi* we have to stress certain aspects *para magmarka*," he explains.

Premium

The marked drop in the box office returns of adult-oriented films lately seems to indicate that Seiko Films will once again put a premium on the quality of its movies. "*Ang dami-dami na kasing gumagawa* ng bold films *at hindi na ito gusto ng mga tao*, probably because of cable TV, the Internet and the proliferation of foreign magazines, and other options. Moviegoers are now after quality films. *Kaya pag may* improbable plots at unrealistic characterization, *ayaw na nila*," Robbie shares.

The box office and critical success of Laurice Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" has also inspired Robbie to do quality films again. "When I saw it, *na*-mesmerize *ako—ang ganda-ganda. Iyak ako ng iyak sa pelikulang 'yon. Nagulat ako sa sarili ko. Gusto ko rin gumawa ng* film *na ganon dahil* I like family-oriented films. I'm happy for Laurice," he says.

Quality films

But Seiko Films is not completely turning its back on adult-oriented films. For a change, however, he's now working with directors who are used to doing quality films but can do sexy scenes at the same time. Currently under production is "Tikim," directed by Jose Javier Reyes. Robbie will also be doing projects with the likes of Joey Romero and Jun Posadas.

Unlike some producers, Robbie goes out of his way to analyze his movies' scripts and helps in improving them. Some directors are surprised because he's able to ask perceptive questions about script structure and flow.

"*Sa akin kasi, di pwede yung basta ibinigay lang ang* script, *ayos na. Kapag maganda ang pagka-kuwento ng istorya at hindi ako inantok*, go *na ang* project! *Dapat mabasa at ma*-analyze *ng mabuti ang* script," he says.

Asked why he seems to shy away from the camera, Robbie explains: "*Pumupunta kasi ako sa mga sinehan* and even beerhouses to try to find out *sa mga tao doon kung anong gusto o ayaw nila sa isang pelikula*. I also go to the university belt to ask students *kung anong palagay nila sa isang artista* or *kung bakit malakas o mahina ang isang pelikula*. This is why I don't want to be photographed so I can travel freely."

Credit cards

"*Kaya lang nagkaproblema ako* if I want to introduce myself as a movie producer. *Noong na*-discover *ko si* Klaudia Koronel sa Pegasus, *ayaw niyang maniwala na ako* si Robbie Tan. I had to present my ID and credit cards!" he laughs.

What can he say to the ultra-conservative groups who are against adult-oriented films? "They should also be as vocal and as supportive *kung may magandang pelikulang ilalabas*. Look what happened to "Bayaning Third World," it was a flop, sad to say.

"They should have rallied behind it so that more people would have watched it. *Kung naging* successful *yon*, I think producers would make more movies like it," he says. It boils down to, *kung anong kumikita, yon ang* i-produce," he explains.

How does he see the MTRCB with Alejandro Roces at the helm? "Well, if I happened to talk to him, my first question would be, does he like watching Tagalog films and is he familiar with them? If not, then the local movie industry has a problem," he says.

Despite the many problems besetting the local movie industry, Robbie hopes to continue producing movies. "I used to tell myself that I'd retire when I reached 35. But now, *siguro* I'll be producing movies forever *na—kahit na napakahirap maghanap ng* project *at mahirap kumita*," he resolutely states.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 7 - 13

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:30 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:30 Journey of Allen Strange 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *In the Name of the Father* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! Special 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 Talk Soup 6:30 CBS Evening Newsd 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Talk Soup
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Correspondents 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 That '70s Show 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Kabalikat 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp. 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 8:00 Survivor 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
THU	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)	Maundy Thursday (No regular programming)
FRI	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)	Good Friday (No regular programming)

Pam Tillis sings hopeful songs for divorced women

BY JIM PATTERSON

TILLIS. Earthy delight.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—The new album by country singer Pam Tillis is an earthy delight.

On "Thunder and Roses," the 43-year-old Tillis speaks to women of her generation, encouraging them to continue the quest for true love despite the specter of divorce and complications of children. It's a thoughtful and sometimes funny album that leaps from musical style to style.

Adults

"Baby boomers rule!" she said with a laugh. "I make music for my friends, and they include a pretty wide age group. There's a lot of adults in there. I don't want to make it exclusive but it's more of an adult slant on the record, definitely."

The 12-song set has several songs about looking for love the second—or third—time around. It's territory she knows. Tillis has been twice divorced (the second time from songwriter Bob DiPiero in 1998) and has a grown son.

"Jagged hearts can mend/Scars can heal and then/It's so amazing when jagged hearts fit together," sings Tillis as she sets the tone with "Jagged Hearts," the opening number by Chris Lindsey and Stephanie Bentley. The song approaches "You've Lost That Loving Feeling" for melodramatic production.

Encouraging song

Elsewhere on the CD, she offers "Off White," an encouraging song about getting remarried that is written lots of new songs.

"I'm hardest on my own stuff," Tillis said. "I'm just not in a place I want to be as a songwriter right now. But that doesn't and radio disappointment, but with the emergence of "Please" as a hit, Tillis is optimistic.

"Nobody is saying, 'Hey, it's time for you to try something else,'" she said. "I'm not feeling that at all. That would be very depressing.

"I feel like people are going, 'We've missed you.' That's the overwhelming sense that I'm getting. And that feels really good." *AP*

Entertainment highlights remembered

IN 1961, Elvis Presley performed what would be his last live concert for eight years, at a show in Hawaii. He instead concentrated on his movie career.

In 1967, Jimi Hendrix set his guitar on fire in front of an audience for the first time, during a concert in London.

Reunions

In 1982, the Doobie Brothers announced they were breaking up. The Doobies have staged several reunions since then.

In 1990, drummer Tommy Lee of Motley Crue was arrested for allegedly exposing his buttocks during a concert in Augusta, Georgia.

In 1991, Donnie Wahlberg of New Kids On The Block was arrested in Louisville, Kentucky, for allegedly pouring vodka on a hotel carpet and setting it on fire. He pleaded innocent.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee died after a freak accident on the set of the movie "The Crow." Lee had been shot with a prop gun that was supposed to fire blanks. He was 28.

Rescued

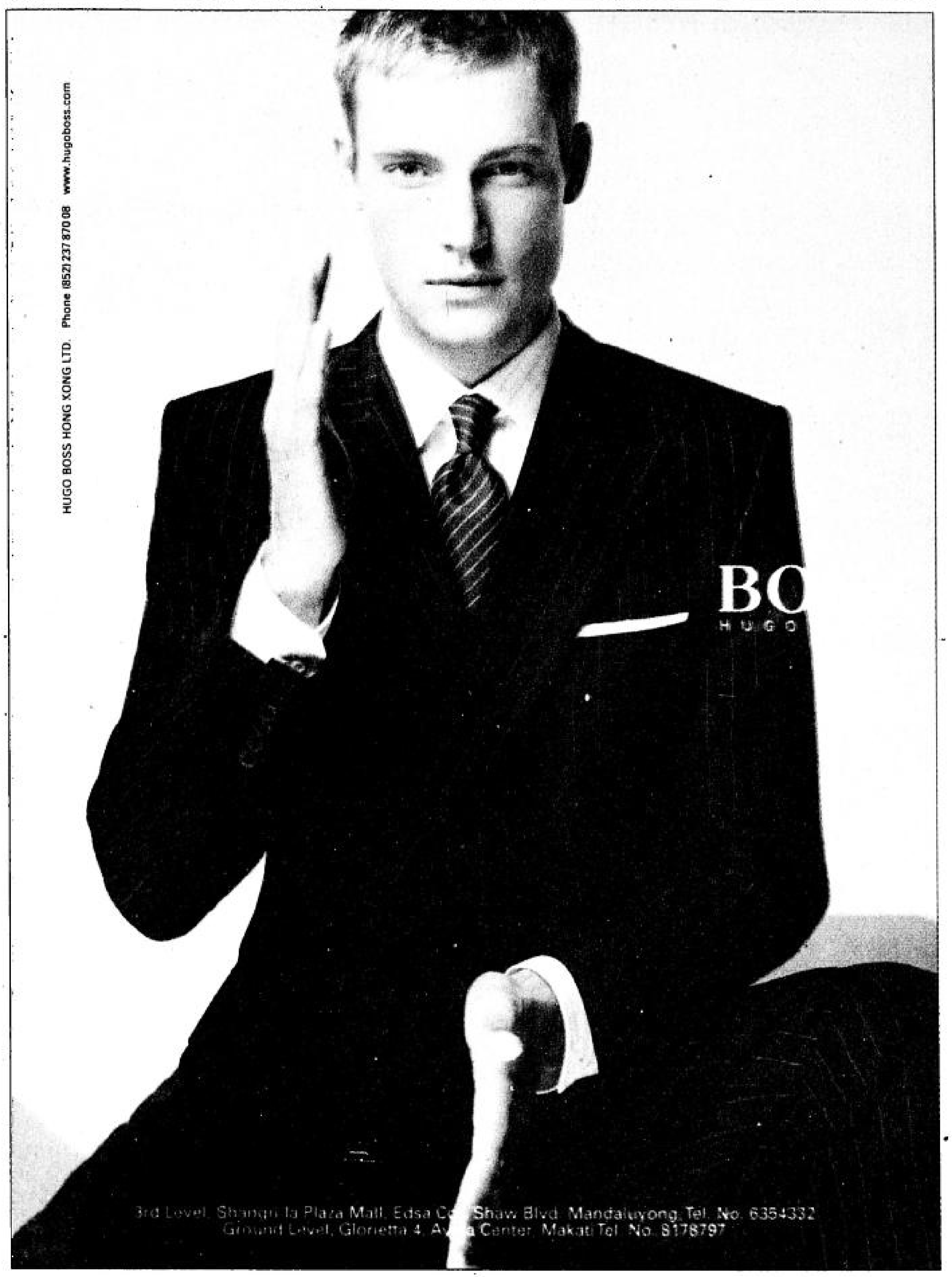
In 1995, singer Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam was rescued after a riptide carried him 250 feet offshore in New Zealand.

Also in 1995, Tejano singer Selena was shot and killed by the founder of her fan club.

In 1996, actor Clint Eastwood married newscaster Dina Ruiz.

Also in 1996, Phil Collins announced he was leaving Genesis.

In 1999, model Fabio was injured while riding a roller coaster as a goose flew into his face in Williamsburg, Virginia. *AP*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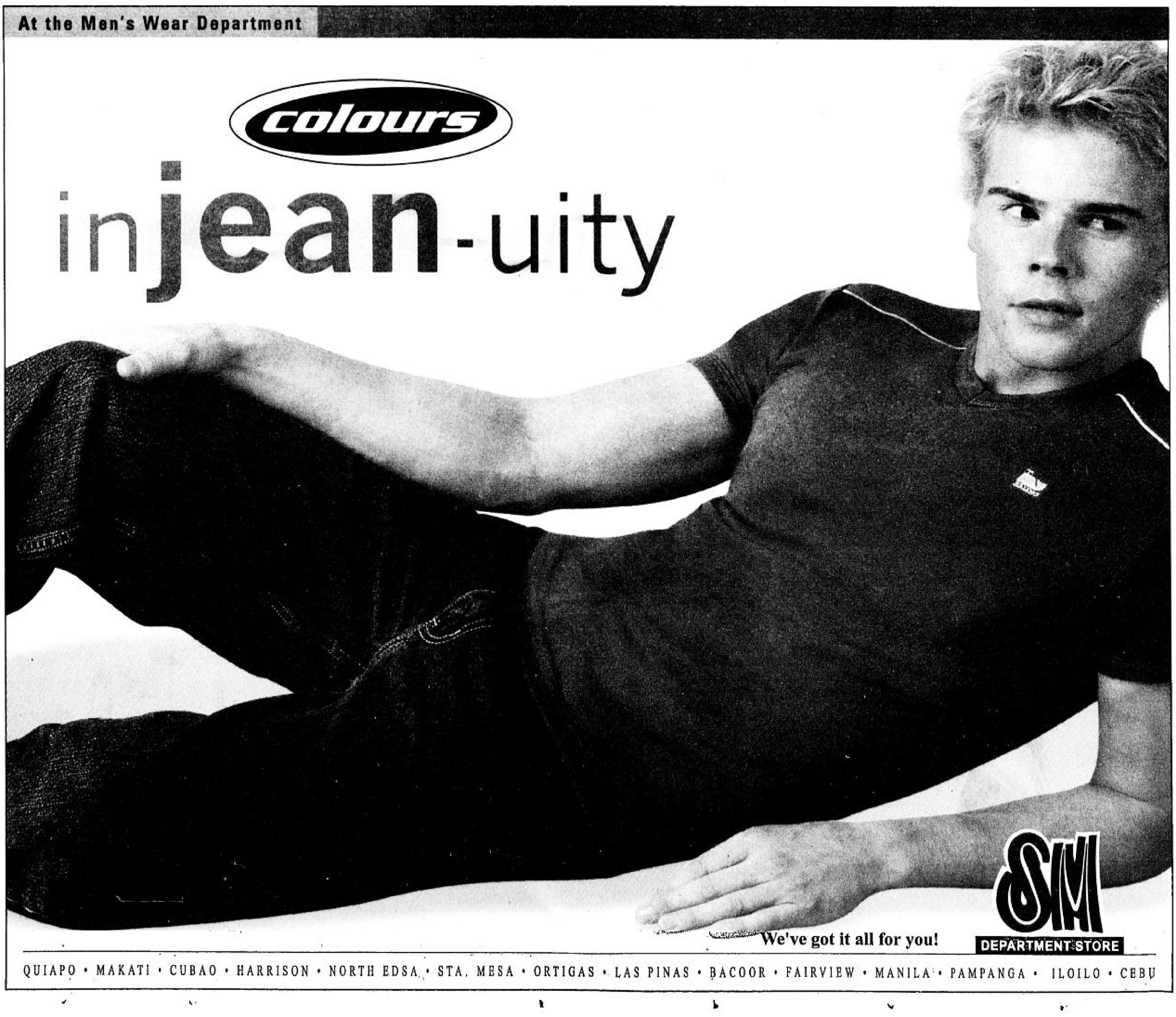
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JOLINA and her dolls.

The 'selling' of Jolina Magdangal

By Edmund L. Sicam

> If the dolls do well in the market, then it's on to ancillary products like dresses and accessories

CENTERSTAGE Production Consultants Company, the out fit that handles the career of multi-media star Jolina Magdangal, has just come out with a collection of dolls in Jolina's likeness. The dolls come in five different looks—Jolina in Concert, Jolina at the Premiere Night, Jolina at the Prom, Casual Jolina, Jolina on a Stroll.

Marketing techniques

Centerstage is managed by Jun Magdangal, Jolina's dad, and from him we discovered some of the marketing techniques he is using to advance his daughter's career. First of all, he considers the 2-22 age bracket as his target market so Jolina continues to accept projects that support her wholesome image. As much as possible, her movie and TV appearances are limited to light material that will appeal to young audiences, even toddlers.

Jun tells us that he maintains a website for Jolina so that he can get feedback from her followers on what they expect from their idol. The Internet is a good mechanism for monitoring the views and opinions especially of fans overseas. Because of the tremendous feedback from foreign netsurfers, Jun continues to accept engagements abroad, not just in the US but also in other countries with large Filipino audiences like Japan and Australia.

He also conducts surveys at Jolina's Fashion Gallery Shops to find out what the market thinks about Jolina. So far, the findings show that her fans like her wholesome and youthful image.

Aside from traditional entertainment products like movies, TV, recordings and live concerts, Jun has developed other entertainment related-activities. Jolina's Fashion Gallery has opened not only in the Philippines but in other countries as well and they offer fashion accessories that are designed by the star herself. These stores are quite popular with teenyboppers who look up to Jolina as their fashion icon.

At 23, Jolina continues to sport the teenybopper look because Jun wants ,to prolong his daughter's young image. Jun relates that child stars encounter a lot of difficulty crossing over to older roles. With, Jolina, this wasn't a problem because the singer/actress was already grown up when she entered show business. She had no period of adjustment to contend with.

Opening salvo

The Jolina dolls are just the opening salvo in the new product line that Jun is developing. If these Barbie-type creations do well in the market, then it's on to ancillary products like dresses and accessories that owners can use to prettify the doll. We expect more styles of dolls to join the initial line. Jun is even planning a talking doll which can "sing' a line or so

THE 'SELLING'/p.F2

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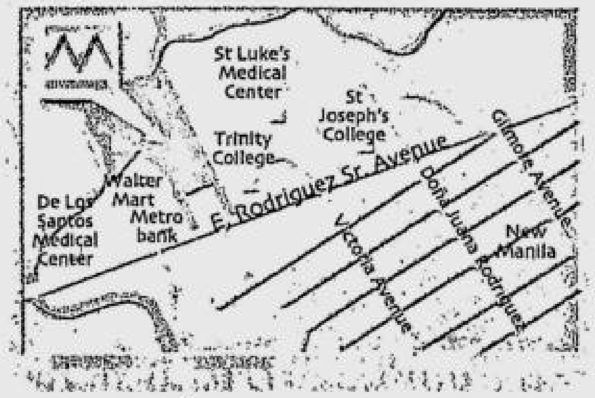

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Ex-Spandau Ballet performs tonight

By Monica S. Gutierrez

SPANDAU Ballet... now that's a name we haven't heard in a long time... not counting Fridays, when their music is usually played on nostalgia radio. Tonight at 8:30, the group along with the local band Freestyle will perform at the Folk Arts Theater.

Spandau Ballet brings back memories of the 1980s—high school, first crushes, proms and graduation balls.

I never found out what happened to Spandau Ballet. They just disappeared from the music scene. I guess I just moved on to other things, but their songs still stayed with me and left their mark in my memory.

FREESTYLE. Performing with the British group.

Legal reasons

But they are now billed as "ex-Spandau Ballet" members, for legal reasons. What we have now is only 60 percent of the band—vocalist Tony Hadley (*the* voice behind "True;" "Gold" and everything else), drummer John Keeble and saxophone player Steve Norman.

The remaining 40 percent (the brothers Kemp, Martin and Gary—the one who wrote the songs) are not with them today. The group had a falling out over royalty payments, but the present 60 percent put it more politely as "they are no longer interested in making music, but we are," commenting on the Kemp brothers' decision to devote their time to pursuing a movie career.

Tony, John and Steve are clearly affected by the subject, although they try to objectify it as much as possible. The three (together with Gary Kemp) have been together since their school days in London.

They say, "What we do is play music that is very dear to us, music that we grew up with." They still have a very emotional attachment to their music and to the group, which may be why the break-up hurt them all the more.

Last performance

Steve can tell you the exact date and location of the last time they performed together as Spandau Ballet : March 6, 1990 at Edinburgh Plaza. When asked why that was the last time, they give a simple but very apt reply, "It was the end of an era."

I forgot which of them said that, but after it was uttered, the other two commended him, "Hey, that's good — the end of an era." And their minds must have wandered off into the '80s for a split second.

The three guys describe themselves as "pals, who are very, very close." It is very evident, the way they clown around, support each other and build each other up. Tony Hadley was talking about his solo albums, when he said that he didn't think the second one was too great. Steve and John immediately jumped in and said, "No, I wouldn't say that!" as if they would not, for one second, allow any one of them to put himself down.

Although they are all doing their own thing, they are still into music. They fervently declare that they are, first and foremost, musicians. Music is obviously still their passion. It seems preposterous for them to give up music and try any other field.

Tony has released several solo albums, the latest of which is entitled, "Obsession". John usually plays for Tony, although he has also tried to form his own band. They share that, as teenagers, all they wanted to do was play music. And that is exactly what they have been doing ever since.

Holiday

They describe this visit to Manila as a "holiday." "This is just us, having some fun." And if the presscon at Nth Degree in Malate was any indication, then these guys really know how to have fun.

That night they had the tedious job of having to grant interviews to several TV shows and publications, all on a one-on-one basis. They were very clearly tired, having just arrived in the Philippines that day. But they gamely posed for the cameras, clowned around for TV and warmed up to the press, gamely answering all their questions.

I just had to ask them a question which had been bugging me since my high school days: "Do you know the lyrics of 'True?'" They pointed to Tony Hadley, since he is the vocalist of the group. I asked, "Who's Marvin?" (referring to the line in "True" that goes...*listening to Marvin all night long......*) They replied matter-of-factly, "Marvin Gaye."

HADLEY. The group's vocalist.

I recognized the name and thought to myself that I would just look him up on the Net. But Steve took the time to explain to me that in their time, if you wanted to "sweeten up a girl", you played Marvin Gaye's records, hence, "listening to Marvin all night long....."

From the looks of it, they will very easily charm their audience at the concert tonight. For Steve, music is about connecting witho other people. "If you don't connect, then it's crap!" he intoned. He thinks it's great when people sing along to their songs in concerts (something that will surely happen here in Manila!).

Anthems

By that criterion alone, you could say that Spandau Ballet has been very successful, for they had a hand in defining a whole musical generation of people. They, along with the other British group, Duran Duran, wrote the anthems of Generation X. John Keeble, put it very aptly when he said that their music is, to many people, the "soundtrack of their lives." This evening at the Folk Arts Theater, promises to be a night you will never forget. John Keeble declares, "We're gonna give the Philippines the best Spandau Ballet they've ever seen!" (Call 891-5610).

The 'selling' of . . .

(From page F1)

from Jolina's hit albums. Thus we have a complementary situation where doll owners will be encouraged to buy Jolina's albums and album owners will be persuaded to buy Jolina dolls.

This is the best example of a franchise that Jolina can count on to expand her multi-media reach. How about food products like a Jolina drink or Jolina sweets, school supplies like Jolina notebooks and Jolina pencils, even novelty items like Jolina jigsaw puzzles and Jolina computer games?

How good is this multi-media approach to Jolina's career as a show biz personality? After all, entertainment is still her main line and her fans might just complain that she is already too commercialized.

So far, it seems the market is reacting favorably to the ancilliary products from Jolina. The star will reach a critical point once her young fans get older and expect something more than the bubblegum stuff she's been working on so far. Jolina herself may tire of the youth-oriented stuff and move on to more mature roles. That's something both father and daughter seem to be postponing because her market continues to be young.

Grown-up roles

We're sure that Jun, being the savvy marketing man that he is, realizes that Jolina will grow up sooner or later and he has to prepare for that day when it will no longer be in fashion to produce Jolina dolls and Jolina must move on to more grown-up roles, not necessarily sexy ones. Barbie dolls continue to be popular because Barbie is a fictitious character who has stayed young forever but Jolina is a real person.

Some sectors may find something wrong with the selling of Jolina and look unkindly on her dad's efforts to exploit every aspect of Jolina's talent. Personally, we don't take a dim view of the elder Magdangal's marketing approach. Realistically speaking, Jolina, like all other entertainers, is a product that needs to be "sold" to movie and TV as well as recording and live concert audiences.

Marketing is only one aspect of an entertainer's career. The other aspect has to do with talent development and we're sure Jolina's handlers are taking care of that too.

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A coffeehouse worth its beans always has its "house blend" that has become its signature or identity. And when it comes to house blends, one coffeehouse has earned a distinction for it, Starbucks. Now a byword when it comes to coffee, Starbucks has revolutionized the coffeehouse concept. Starbucks is no longer just a place where you can sip coffee, nibble on pastries, or have a tête-à-tête. When you enter Starbucks, you have stepped into a world where you can really enjoy the "brewed adventure."

For the uninitiated, the Starbucks coffee adventure starts with its House Blend, a classic start-off towards other Starbucks specialties. This is also Starbucks' most popular coffee. For the seasoned Starbucks habitute, Starbucks House Blend is "rich in history" and has a special place in many customers' hearts, each definitely worth reminiscing about. Other highly recommended Starbucks blends are: Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Colombia.

Starbucks House Blend gives the drinker a distinct feeling of "being home." Sipping Starbucks House Blend is not just the end in itself, but a beginning, an opener into your personal discovery of what coffee is really all about, a gateway into the ethereal realm of total satisfaction in coffee drinking.

To encourage first-timers to develop a "Starbucks attitude," they will be treated to product samplings. This way, they will discover what their "own favorites" will be. Other House Favorites will also be promoted, like: Double Tall Latte, Double Espresso, Hazelnut Mocha, Mint Mocha, Caramel Cappucino, Rhumba Frapuccino, Caramel Americano, Iced Vanilla Americano, Iced Mint Mocha, Iced Caramel Mocha, and many more original Starbucks concoctions.

Starbucks will also hold a special promotional campaign to attract more customers, whether they are coffee lovers or occasional coffee drinkers. Among these activities are: handing out product samples during specific rush-hour periods; offer samples to customers who are just "looking at the product displays but have decided not to purchase; educate customers about the different coffee varieties; include House Favorites in the Daily Offerings Board as enticement for trial and repeated purchase; and pairing House Favorite beverages with a House Favorite pastry, explaining how the flavors compliment each other.

Coffee seminars are also being planned which may include: where specific coffee beans originate and how these should be grinded; how to brew a perfect Starbucks coffee at home; explain what types of milk or syrup are best used for coffee and how they enhance flavor; and let customers know that they can order their Starbucks coffee exactly as they like it.

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Rufa Mae Quinto tries drama in GMA show

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER making her presence felt on television to the point where many felt she was already overexposed, sexy comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto has dropped her regular programs. She's out of ABC's "Ispup" and ABS-CBN's "Arriba, Arriba" and Viva TV's "Subic" in which she co-stars with sexpots Joyce Jimenez and Priscilla Almeda, has been discontinued.

Movie career

Rufa explains that she wanted to concentrate on her movie career. She's finishing "Baliktaran," a comedy with Bayani Agbayani, and will soon start work on another Viva project, "Radio 1010," where she plays a DJ pursued by a mad killer played by Jeffrey Quizon. She is also finishing her second album, "Lupaypay." That should be enough reason for her to drop out of her regular shows.

However, when pressed further, she hinted that she had a disagreement with ABC-5. She was hazy, though, about the exact details. Ditto about her ABS-CBN show, though she was talking about her commitment to her home studio, Viva Films.

For those who have missed Rufa on the boob tube, GMA is featuring her in four episodes of "Larawan" (Wednesdays, 9 p.m.) starting on April 11. Don't expect pure comedy on the series, although she admits doing funny stuff is her favorite because it comes naturally to her. Rufa aims to prove to tele-

RUFA/p.G2

QUINTO. Two new movies coming up.

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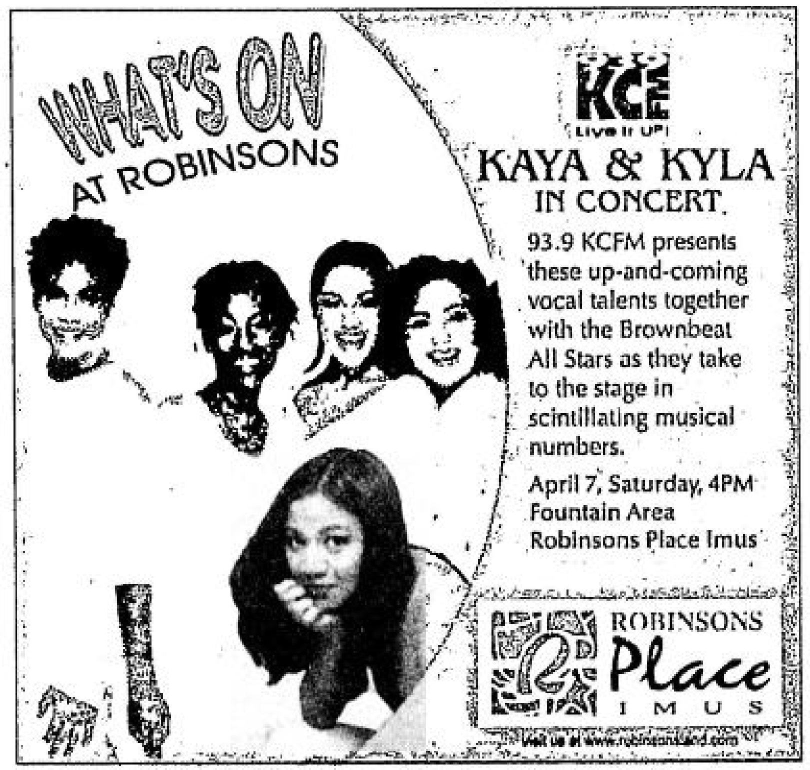

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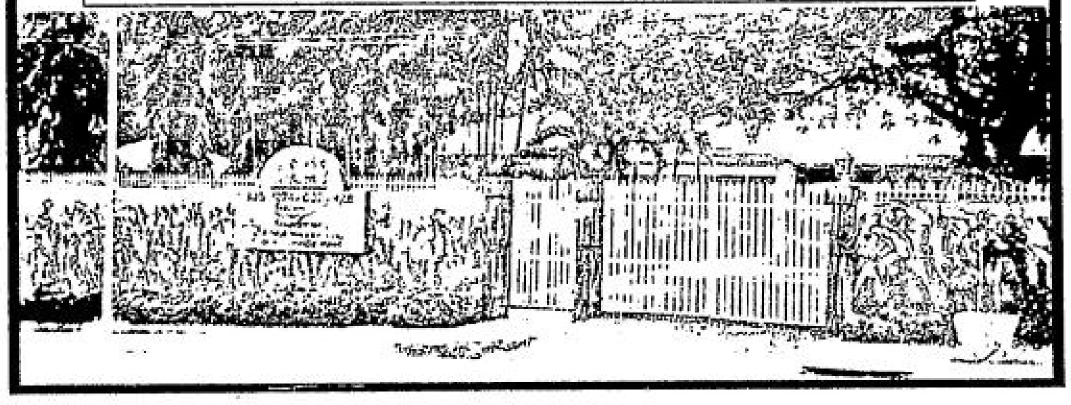

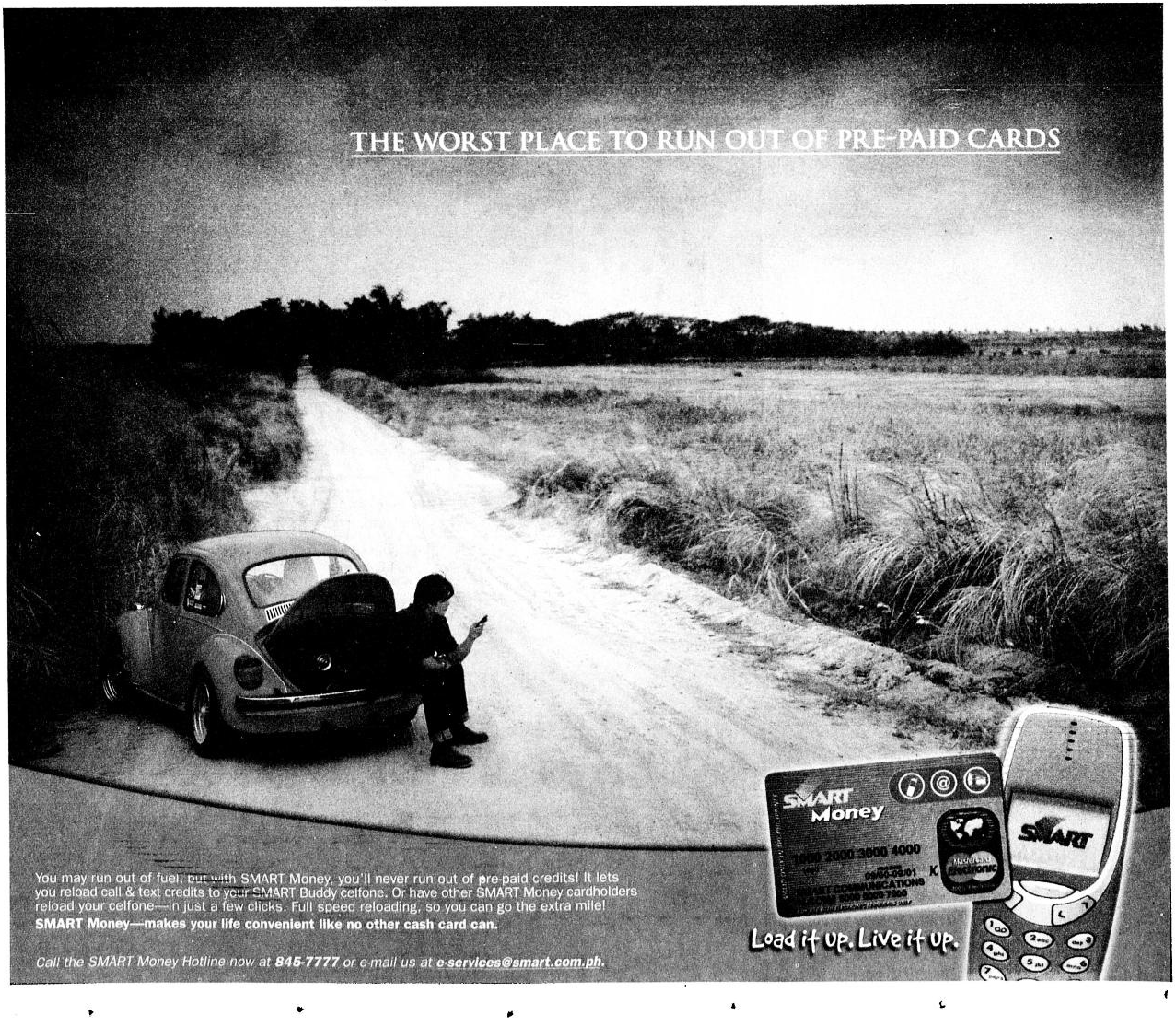

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THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

Ramon Bayron gets good breaks on TV and in the movies

By Nestor U. Torre

ADD Ramon Rey Bayron's name to the growing list of new TV-film scriptwriters who are slowly but surely establishing a reputation for good, innovative work.

The latest feather in Ramon's cap: "Abakada…Ina," the movie he co-wrote with Shaira Salvador, has gotten a "B" rating from the Film Ratings Board, which entitles it to a 65 percent rebate on amusement taxes when the movie is shown later this month.

Ramon is especially pleased to note that the movie stars Lorna Tolentino and is the comeback picture of Eddie Garcia as director.

High standards

Lorna is known to choose only quality movie projects, and Eddie has begged off from directing for years because he hasn't been able to find a script interesting and unique enough to meet his high standards.

The fact that the script of "Abakada…Ina" caught his fancy makes Ramon and Shaira very proud and happy, indeed.

Ramon Bayron's interest in movies in general and screenwriting in particular started when he was only in first year high school, when he enrolled in one of Ricky Lee's writing workshops.

BAYRON. Rejections are part of the game.

Concepts

But he didn't really do much in the writing field until 1997, when he took another Ricky Lee workshop and was assigned to Mel del Rosario's group. He was asked to come up with concepts which Shaira Salvador was tapped to assess.

She liked what she read and took one story concept to producer Ramon Salvador, who ended up buying it (the project has yet to be filmed, however).

Shaira also recommended Ramon to write for "Maala-ala Mo Kaya." This is deemed to be a plum program assignment for scriptwriters, so Ramon was off to a good start, thanks to Mel and Shaira's early appreciation of his potential.

Vote of confidence

Even better, he was assigned to the senior writers' group, an unusually strong vote of confidence in a new writer like him. Again, he was tasked to submit story concepts, and one of them was chosen for development into a full script. Unfortunately, even after four revisions, it wasn't given the green light for taping.

But Ramon didn't lose heart and kept coming up with concepts. He realized that rejections were part of the writing game, and if you refused to let them get you down, you could even learn from them.

Long wait

One fine and hectic day, Ramon's long wait to write a "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" episode was over. The show needed a script right away, and he was assigned to write it—in only one day.

Eventually, he wrote around 10 scripts for the top-rating show, a feat that gave him good cachet in screenwriting circles. Even more impressively, one of the episodes he scripted, "Sugat," was chosen to compete in the Asian TV Awards tilt in Singapore, and it won a "Highly Recommended" citation.

Closure

The episode's script had a relatively daring story about the threatened closure of a leprosarium, which Ramon got from a newspaper account.

The young scriptwriter stayed with "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" for a year, after which he "wanted to do other stuff," so he moved to other shows, finally ending up writing a Lenten special for the T.A.P.E. production outfit (the drama starred Aiza Seguerra and Francis Magalona).

After that, Ramon thought of moving on to writing movie scripts, so he enrolled in the annual screenwriting workshop of the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines. *(To be concluded)*

Family time at Kamirori

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

WEEKENDS are reserved for my family. It is a time of excitement as we spend time together playing or exploring new restaurants. In choosing the dining place for the week, we sometimes practice democracy but occasionally Tessa's and my word is law. If the choice is left to the children, we would always end up either at McDonald's or Jollibee!

Other restaurants

Other restaurants we all agree on are Pancake House, Bacolod Chicken, The Barn, Peking Duck at City Garden, Kongo Grill and lately, Flamers Burgers (but that's another story).

Many times though, we stop the car and just take a vote on where to go. And, most of the time, the unanimous cry is, "Good, ole Kamirori!"

Kamirori is a nice, cozy and simple Japanese restaurant in the Katipunan area. The place is consistent with the Japanese image of neatness. It also serves a few Thai and Korean dishes.

Here, you will find a menu that suits the palate of any family member. My wife Tessa loves the California maki, the gyoza and fresh salmon sashimi. My eldest boy Franco usually has two orders of tempura and a tekamaki. My daughter Ali has the tekamaki too, while Arturo and Danielle love the chicken Teriyaki.

I usually start with a Tekamaki, then I have a chicken Teriyaki, Thai *kangkong*, Tempura and some Unagi maki. There are other interesting dishes in the menu that I have not gotten around to try.

Unpreventious

Here is an unpretentious Japanese restaurant with a simple menu but the taste is comparable to many fine-dining Japanese restaurants around. It is a semi-fast food setting. Very important to us all, the prices are extremely reasonable.

I recommended the place to a friend who was having a Valentines dinner with her whole "*barangay*" family of 14. Her husband was so surprised at how inexpensive and unbelievably good the food was.

You walk into the place, give your order on the counter, pay, take a number and wait. In just a few minutes, your order arrives and it's humming and leg-shaking ("*nagkukuyakoy*") from there on. It is a nice, simple dining experience. It also has dishes like *pandan* chicken, *bagoong* rice and Korean Beef Stew.

Check the place out. Along Katipunan in front of Ateneo College gate, you will see Kentucky Fried Chicken. Enter that street, and Kamirori will be on your right.

HAPPY EATING!

If you want to order my cookbook or just visit my website, log on to: sandydaza.8k.com.

The cookbooks are also available at my fastfood outlets.

Centex concert airs on ABS-CBN

MONTAGE

"THE Music of Dreams," the star-studded concert for the benefit of the Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education, Centex will air on ABS-CBN on Easter Sunday, April 15 at 9:30 p.m.

The concert brought together top artsists like Pops Fernandez, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Jaya, Agot Isidro, Jolina Magdangal, Isay Alvarez, Audie Gemora and Ella Mae Saison. The 50-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Ryan Cayabyab accompanied the performers

But the real stars of the show, says Ryan, are the children who participated in the program and for whom the concert was held. Some of the child performers in "The Music of Dreams" study in the Centex schools in Tondo and the newly opened Centex-Batangas.

Side A in Baguio

AFTER a three-year wait, Baguio City will finally be able to watch Side A in a major concert. The show will be staged at the University of Baguio gymnasium today at 8 p.m. Side A will also promote their latest album "Will I Ever" under Warner Music.

"Side A Live in Baguio" is the initial presentation of Sound Qoncept. Call 714-2897, (074) 443-5163, (074) 445-6945.

New version of 'JC Superstar'

Star World presents a new version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's acclaimed musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" on April 13 at 9 p.m. with a replay on April 14 at 12 midnight.

For the first time, the musical has been filmed specially for television. Inspired by Gale Edwards' stage production, the new version was shot at Pinewood Studios using modern costumes and contemporary stage sets. Starring Glenn Carter and Rik Mayall, the musical dramatizess the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

The story of 'Star Wars'

As part of the cable premiere of "The Phantom Menace" this month, Star Movies chronicles the "Star Wars" phenomenon both past and present in "World Television Star Wars Epiosde 1: The Story of Star Wars a Long Time Ago" on April 16 at 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. with a replay on April 29 at 7 a.m.

VJ Adrian on Channel V

The "Top 5@5" with VJ Adrian on Channel V International has been extended to one hour starting this month, every Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Join the outrageous VJ as he brings the top videos, all the fun of the old shows, as well as some new segments. Also watch out for entertainment news, Adrian's "Pop Sensations" and the premiere of new videos from favorite artists.

Zsa Zsa Padilla in concert

Viva Concerts presents "High on Love," a concert featuring Zsa Zsa Padilla, Janno Gibbs and Freestyle on April 28 at the Yñares Center in Antipolo City.

Call 413-2572.

Celso Ad. Castillo showcase

Viva Cinema's Director of the Month is Celso Ad.Castillo. Some of his classic films will be aired every Thursday this month at 6 p.m.

Vilma Santos and Bembol Roco star in "Pagputi ng Uwak, Pag-itim ng Tagak" on April 12. Beauty queen Maria Isabel Lopez plays an irresistible island maiden in "Isla" on April 19. Former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz is a beautiful castaway who unwittingly brings hatred and death to a placid fishing village in "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa." The movie also stars Vic Vargas, Elizabeth Oropesa and Lito Anzures and airs on April 26.

Civil War film on IBC-13

"Red Runs the River," a 90-minute film set during the Civil War will be shown on April 14 at 3 p.m. on IBC-13.

Unusual Films, the motion picture unit of Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, spent months researching on all aspects of the Civil War. Many noted authorities on the war between the states were consulted. "Red Runs the River" is an authentic portrayal of men dedicated to a cause, to each other and to their God.

SIDE A. Peforms in Baguio tonight.

Jane Goodall bio

Actor Harrison Ford narrates a uniquely personal portrait of one of the world's most admired women, Jane Goodall in "Reason for Hope" on National Geographic Channel on April 15 at 8 p.m.

Filmed on location in Tanzania, England, France and San Francisco, this program looks beyond Goodall's scientific career and examines her remarkable life and the deeply-held spiritual beliefs that have been at the center of her life and work.

The film traces Goodall's life from her prescient childhood in England, where her earliest companion was a toy chimpanzee named "Jubilee," to her decades with the wild chimps at Gombe and her "conversion" from scientist to environmental activist in the 1980s. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

Rufa Mae . . .

(From page G1)

viewers that she can do drama as well—"*yung pang*-award," she says, half-kidding.

With the help of Joel Lamangan, she might just win that award for her performance in the premiere episode "Boba," where she stars as Ickay, "a woman who has not 'developed' normally like her peers—mentally, that is. She is a slow-learning 21-year-old going through adult life's trials while trying hard to meet what is expected from a grade five student."

Other episodes will be directed by Rico Gutierrez, Ruel Bayani and Joyce Bernal, her director in "Booba."

Rufa is one of the few sexy stars we truly enjoy talking to. She's quite entertaining and always elicits laughter because of her side comments. She also cannot help but answer all our questions even when she says she doesn't want to talk about her ex-lover, Dingdong Avanzado.

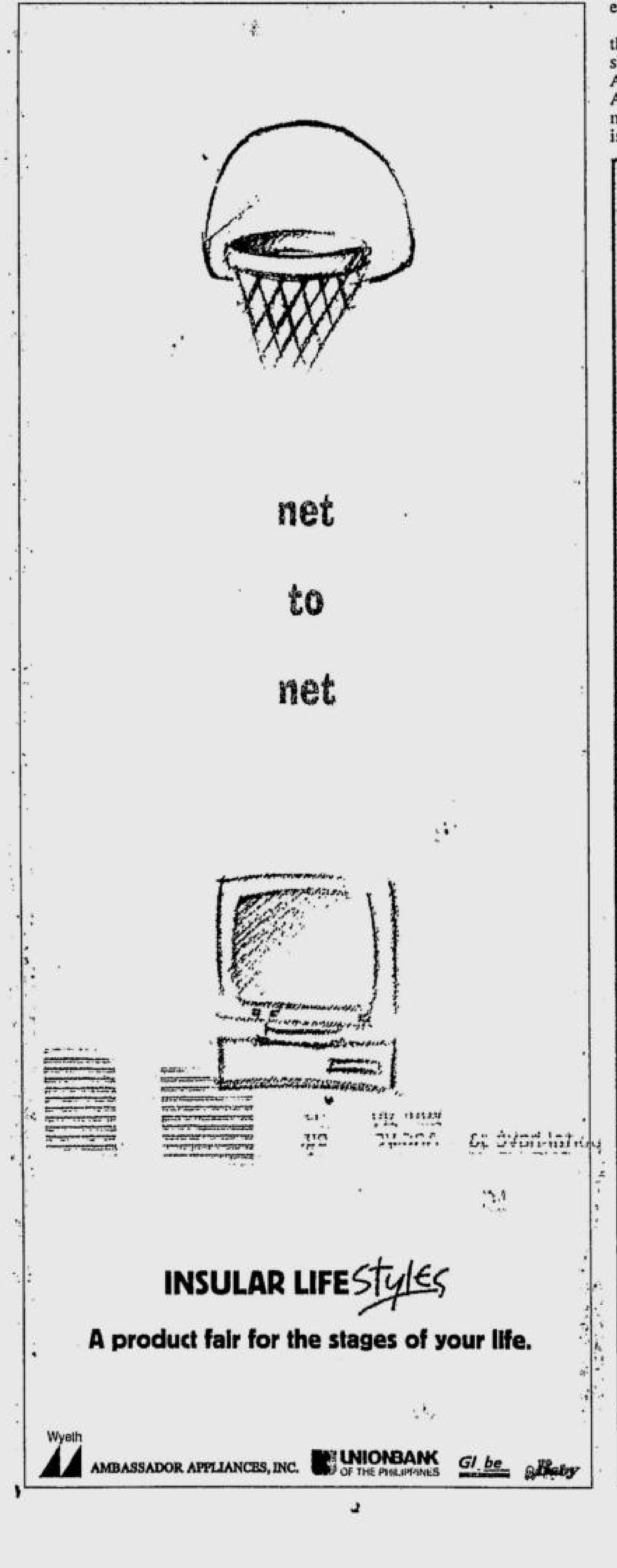
Asked what she felt about the Dingdong-Jessa Zaragoza wedding, she replies, "*Dapat mamatay na…ang* issue *na yan*." Ask her to do an impression of Jessa, and she goes into a Jessa-like rendition of "Bakit Pa" and "Ikakasal Ka Na" with the trademark nasal voice.

Boyfriend

She talked about her boyfriend, basketball player Rudy Hatfield, after telling us that Rudy didn't want to be written about. "He's a conservative guy, *taga* Michigan, *parang probinsya sa* States," she explained.

Rufa has remained unaffected by the successes

RUFA/p.G4



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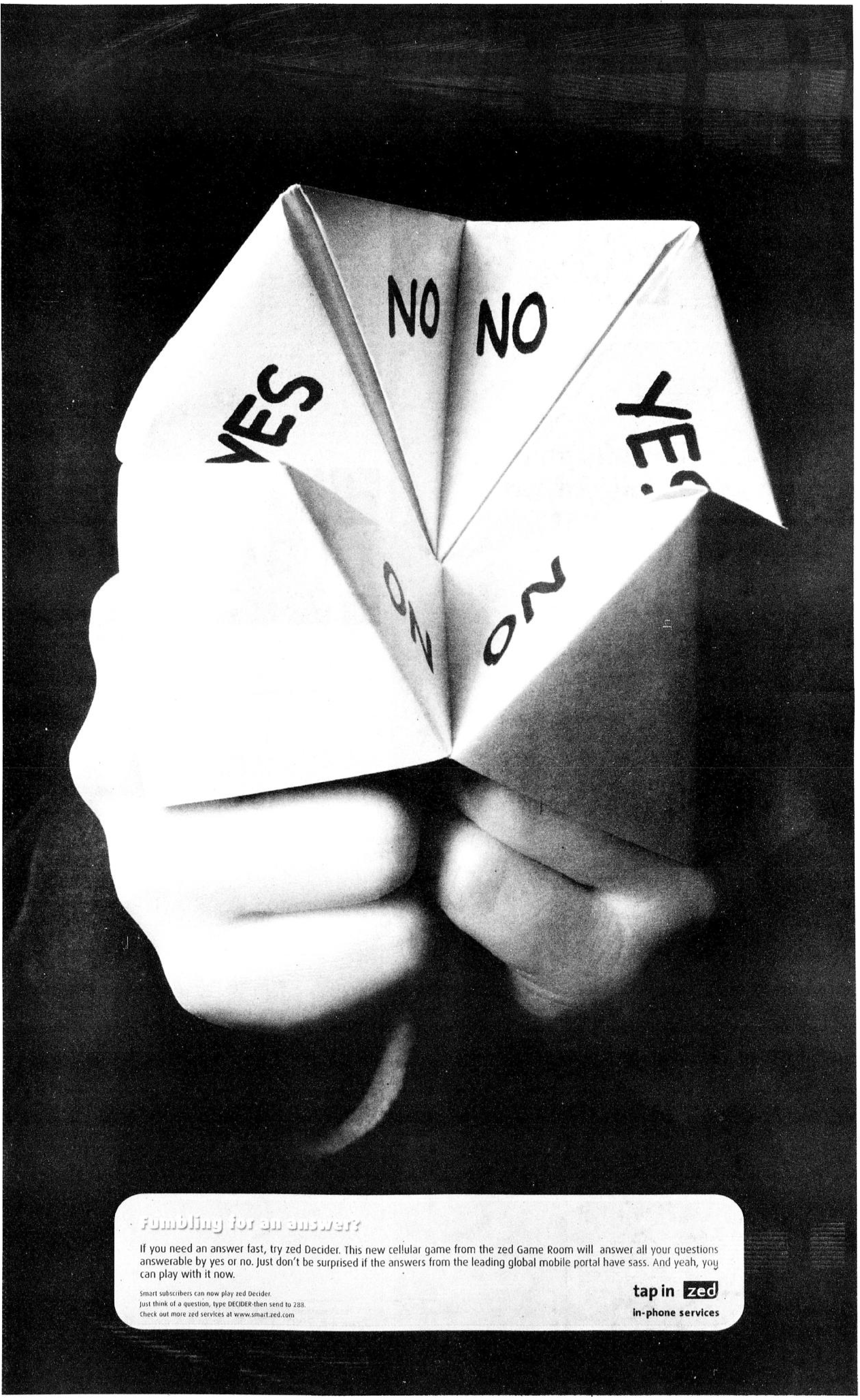

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Holy Land revisited in music, prayers and images

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THE RECENT release of "In His Time, Servant of All 2" was a particularly gratifying event for Tintin Bersola, Julius Babao. Jeanne Young, Baby Gil, Arlina Onglao, Nards Belen and this writer.

JEANNE Young (second from left), Tintin Bersola (third from right) and other Filipino pilgrims in Israel.

Pilgrims

With 30-plus other pilgrims, we toured Israel last December with the Viva Records team that shot and produced the bonus VCD of the Holy Land that goes with this new inspirational album. The pilgrimage and media coverage were made possible by Catholic Travel, Philippine Airlines and Israel El Al Airlines.

Aside from getting an inspirational boost from the songs and readings in "Servant of All, 2" armchair pilgrims will also be able to get a close look at the places where the greatest story ever told actually happened. Footage was shot by Felino Tañada, Rene Salta was associate producer of the project, and Guia Gil-Ferrer and Alwyn Cruz were the supervising producers.

The video takes viewers to the important places where Jesus lived and died – Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, the town of Cana (where he worked his first miracle), Jericho, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, the garden of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, the Via Dolorosa and Calvary.

Our pilgrimage was made more meaningful by the caring and insightful spiritual guidance of our group's chaplain, Fr. Renato Jose E. Lopez, SSL.

Reflection

As for the "Servant of All 2" album, it's produced by Jeanne Young. It's a collection of songs, prayers and pieces for reflection that has won the endorsement of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Its approach is more pop in nature, but it's hoped this won't lessen the religious focus and fervor of the compilation. R&B and rock share equal space with the more standard inspirational ballads and gospel songs and this should make the album more accessible to younger listeners.

There are 16 selections, leading off with the title track, "In His Time," sung by Pops Fernandez. Other cuts include "He Opens a Window (performed by Janno Gibbs), "Hesus" (the rock band Alamid), "Sa Kanya" (Zsa Zsa Padilla), "Ang Lahat ng Ito'y Para sa Iyo" (Lani Misalucha), "From a Distance" (Dulce), "Panalangin Mo" (Jeremiah), "I Turn to You" (Lance Raymundo), and "Come Now, It Is the Time to Worship" (Carla Guevarra).

Incidentally, Jeanne has also been responsible for the "Mother of All" and "Christmas for All" albums, which have been warmly received by the listening public.

IN HIS TIME
SERVANT OF ALL
2

Healing portraits

For this new album, Jeanne thought of using the portraits of Jesus Christ painted by Fr. Chito Dajao, SDB. They are described as healing portraits. Fr. Dajao is ill with severe hepatitis but has found a new mission in painting the face of Jesus.

"At this moment of my life when I need it most, my painting has become my prayer," he fervently declares as he continues to fight his serious illness.

Finally, Ma. Teresita Arvisu, Israel El Al Airlines general manager for the Philippines, informs us that the year 2000 showed a remarkable 32 percent increase in the number of Filipinos (11,106) who toured the Holy Land. The airline has thus increased the number of its Manila-Tel Aviv flights.

The productive partnership of Catholic Travel, Israel El Al Airlines and Philippine Airlines is also lining up more pilgrimages this year.

MA. TERESITA Arvisu (second from right), El Al Airlines GM for the Philippines and Guam, with (from left), Jojo Villanueva, El Al senior sales rep, Hagit Ben-Yaakov, Israel deputy chief of mission, Her Excellency Irit Ben-Abba, Ambassador of Israel, Angel Weinstein, El Al GM for China, East Asia and Oceania, Rami Listman, Israel Tourist Office director for Japan and the Far East and Marian Taparo.

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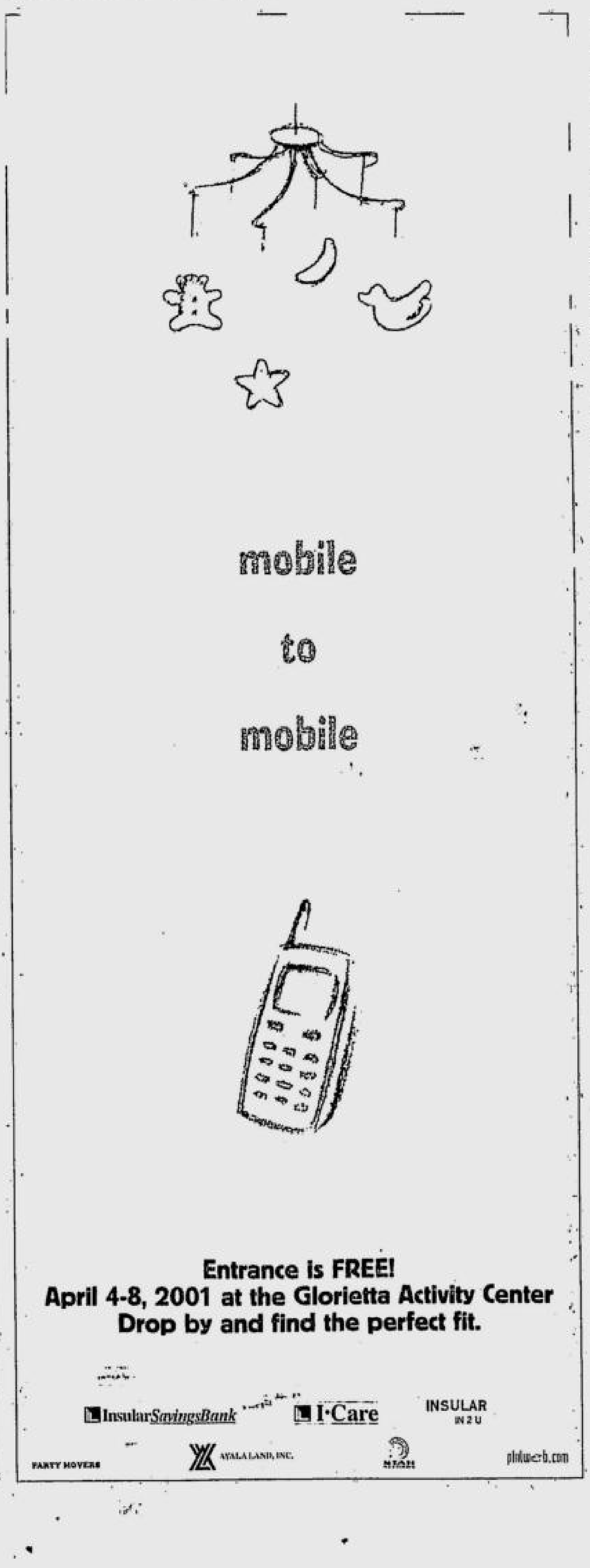
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Rufa Mae . . .

(From page G1)

she's had. In fact, until recently, she didn't have a manager, just an aunt who scheduled her engagements and negotiated with producers regarding her fees. She has signed up with Boy Abunda's Backroom, though that relationship has not been formalized.

She hit the jackpot when she took the road less traveled by bold stars. Instead of taking her disrobing and sexy roles seriously, Rufa decided to add a comic touch to them. That decision proved to be the right move since no one else was doing it. Before long, the offers started to pile up and she was on her way to the top.

She even won the Star Awards' best supporting actress trophy for her role in the movie "Dahil May Isang Ikaw" which starred Regine Velasquez and Aga Muhlach. She has also won a Golden Dove from KBP and a Star Award for her many impersonations on ABC-5's "Ispup."

A major step was playing her first title role in "Booba," a gamble that paid off for Viva Films. The movie was a certified hit because of the really funny situations the title character got herself into, situations that exploited both her physical assets and her flair for comedy.

Lead star

Despite her status as lead star, Rufa says she is willing to accept supporting roles. In the latest Aga Muhlach-Regine Velasquez starrer, she has a cameo role. Other successful stars would probably find doing supporting roles a demotion but Rufa has no star complex.

As a comedian, Rufa has proven that she can make people laugh. "Larawan" should demonstrate whether she has what it takes to handle dramatic roles as well.

Kirsten Dunst stars in 'Get Over It'

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—Talk about truth in advertising.

The initial ads for Miramax's "Get Over It" featured a shapely blonde bearing what appears to be an automatic weapon. The tag line: "The year's sexiest comedy!" Obviously, the ads were aimed at gun-happy, testosterone-loaded male teens.

New ads feature close-ups of cast members and the line: "This weekend pull off something big."

Crossbow

In reality, "Get Over It" contains no gunplay unless you count a small, stage-prop crossbow the heroine accidentally shoots at the hero. As for sex, there are busty girls aplenty, but the lust factor never exceeds chaste kissing.

"Get Over It" actually is a rather sweet love story with attractive actors (though they seem too mature to be in high school) and a fair amount of laughs. The grown-ups are dunderheads, but that's standard in teen flicks.

The highlight of the film is the rehearsing and staging of a modern version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (the film borrows from "Shakespeare in Love," but that's not a bad source).

Berke Landers (Ben Foster) seems totally pleased with his senior year. He plays on the basketball team and is going steady with the school's dream girl, Allison (Melissa Sagemiller).

Desolate

But when a dashing new student with a Brit accent (Shane West) steals Allison away, Berke is desolate. In his effort to win Allison back, he enlists the help of Kelly (Kirsten Dunst), his best friend's sister.

Even though he displays no obvious talent, Berke manages to be accepted by the flighty drama teacher (Martin Short) for the senior play. Melissa stars in the production, and Berke hopes he can spend time with her and win her back. Kelly helps him learn Shakespeare and singing, and these scenes are the film's most winning.

Director Tommy O'Haver, who wrote and directed 1998's "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss," has said, "This is not your ordinary teen movie." Thanks to him and screenwriter R. Lee Fleming Jr., it's not. O'Haver shows a sensitivity to the tender moments and a talent for sight gags.

Fleming, who also wrote the 1999 teen comedy "She's All That," supplies a serviceable plot. He can't avoid the cliche of doltish parents, but he does provide a twist by having Swoosie Kurtz and Ed Begley Jr. play TV sex advisers for whom anything goes.

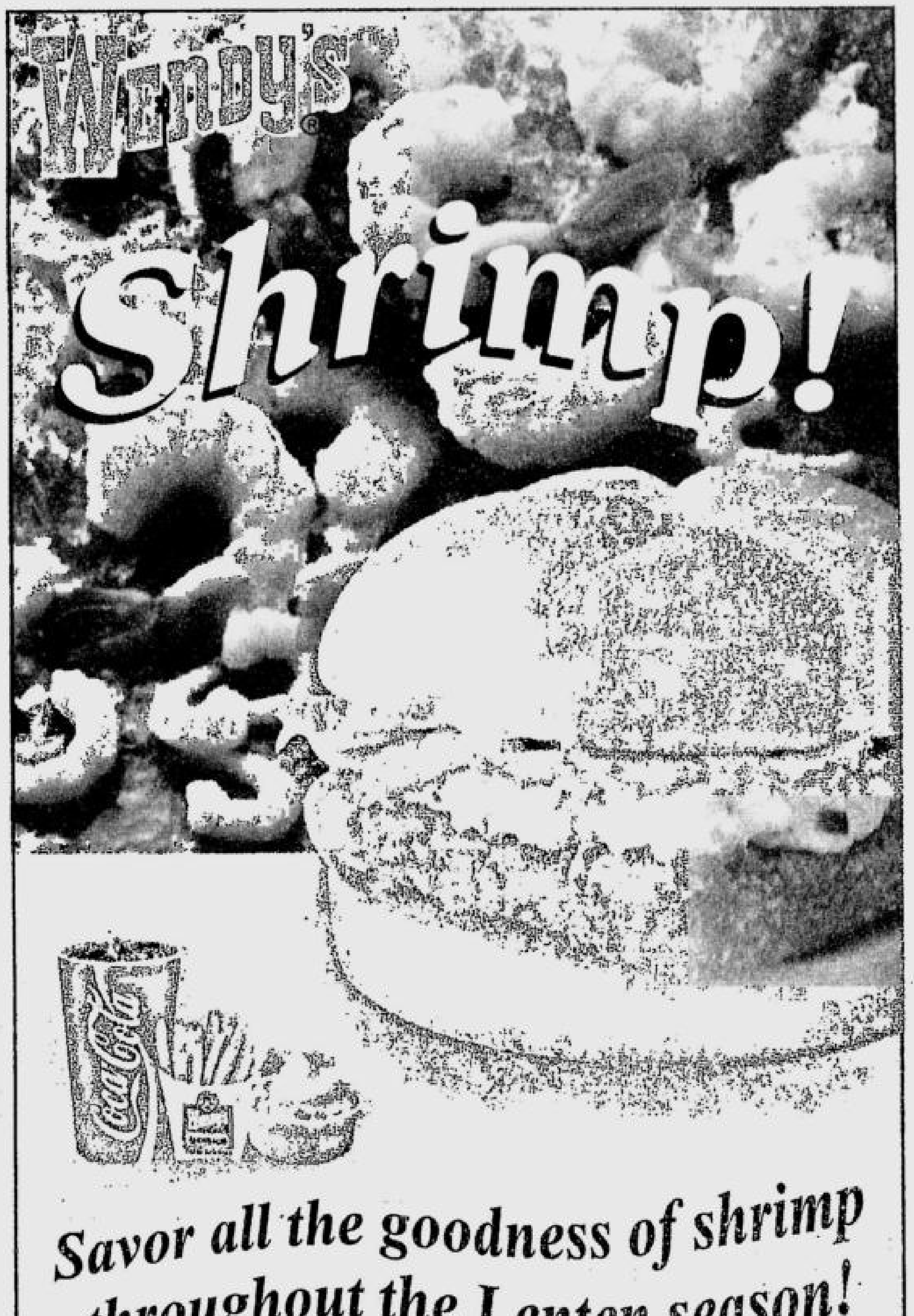
Convincingly sympathetic

Blank-faced Foster carries the load as the frustrated Berke, and he's convincingly sympathetic. Dunst brings depth to her role as his would-be sweetheart. Sagemiller is properly aloof as the girl who jilts Berke.

Short has some funny, manic riffs as the drama teacher who likes to quote "friends" such as Robert De Niro and Kevin Spacey. Rapper Sisqo makes his film debut but has little to do until some dancing and singing at the end.

"Get Over It" boasts no fewer than nine producer credits, too many to tell who did what. Miramax did not screen the film for critics ahead of time. Rated PG-13 for some crude/sexual humor, teen drinking and language. Running time: 90 minutes. *AP*

"GET OVER IT." A sweet love story with a fair amount of laughs.



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'The Dish' is a lark

By Matt Wolf

LONDON—Here's the dish on "The Dish,' whose title refers not to dinnerware or even to gossip but to the potentially driest of topics, a satellite dish.

Likable

The movie is a likable slice of small-town Australian life at a time when a little-known rural community came to the forefront of the globe.

Sure, "The Dish" may not always sustain its humor, and those on guard against sentimentality may feel the hackles rise. But as directed by Rob Sitch, who co-wrote the screenplay with three others, this depiction of the antipodean contribution to the 1969 Apollo 11 moon mission is more "The Full Monty" than "Apollo 13."

Simply put, it's a lark.

That's sort of how the good people of Parkes in New South Wales react when their town is chosen to host the world's most powerful receiving dish capable of monitoring from the Southern Hemisphere the moonwalk that Nasa is itself channeling through a separate dish in California.

But when the astronauts achieve their historic goal early, it falls to the Parkes dish to record the moment. That would be easily enough accomplished except for several unforeseen hurdles, including unexpectedly gusty winds.

Sheep paddock

Will Parkes live up to its global promise? (If the community had not, there would be no movie.) What isn't predictable is the behavior of a populace newly thrust into the spotlight, confronted with a dish that looks pretty odd positioned in a sheep paddock.

The script mixes the ultimately triumphant behavior of the machinery itself with the quirky array of men who are on hand to monitor it—the pipe-smoking Cliff Buxton (Sam Neill), the so-called "dishmaster," who must keep the peace among astrophysicist colleagues Glenn (Tom Long), Mitch (Kevin Harrington) and Nasa's representative, Al (Patrick Warburton).

They bicker and spar and jockey for position—and Glenn breaks away from the quartet to summon up the courage to ask a local girl out on a date.

SAM Neill (third from left) plays the "dishmaster" who must keep the peace among his colleagues.

The town goes eccentrically about its routine. Mayor Bob McIntyre (Roy Billing) busies himself attending to the visiting US ambassador (John McMartin), while McIntyre's wife (Genevieve Mooy) bustles about like one to-the-grand-occasion born.

"Elbows," she remonstrates to her husband during a roast lamb lunch that demands proper etiquette. Protocol is one thing, accuracy another: A local band mistakenly plays the theme from "Hawaii Five-O" in place of the U.S. national anthem.

The couple's sullen, combative daughter Marie (Lenka Kripac) keeps up her fiercely anti-capitalist front, while brainy younger brother Billy (Carl Snell) merely immerses himself in the how-and-why of the whole event.

Best of all is Rudi (Tayler Kane), a security guard not particularly quick on the uptake— "who goes there?" he barks to an errant sheep—but primed for the wonder of the occasion.

"This whole thing, I can't believe it," he says, setting up the shift toward schmaltz into which "The Dish" partly slides. An overemotive soundtrack doesn't help.

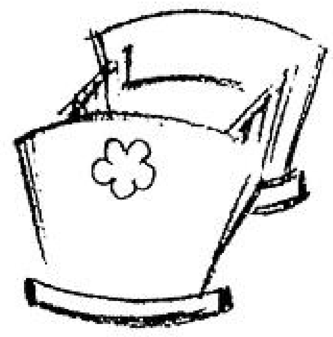
"The Dish" doesn't need to cue our responses; its story is strong enough, reminding us as it does of a time that Cliff says was "science's chance to be daring."

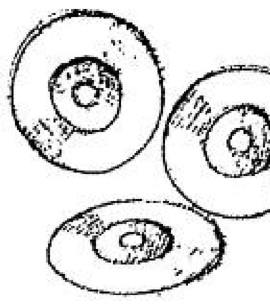
The film is framed by the return of the aged Cliff to the site of his great triumph, during which he stops to doff his cap at the dish.

Some may want to do the same toward "The Dish," which substitutes daring for that far less available screen quality—darling.

"The Dish" is a Warner Bros. release of a Working Dog presentation.

AP





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What movies do young viewers want the local film industry to produce?

By Leia Torre

MANY viewers candidly admit to being bored with the sadly predictable products movie studios come up with these days. They complain that finding a good, enjoyable and excellently-made movie with a unique storyline is a study in patience and resourcefulness.

Financial bottom line

Unfortunately for us moviegoers, filmmakers look at the financial bottom line before anything else.

But some young moviegoers have their own ideas about what types of movies should be made in order to make going to the movies not only an enjoyable experience, but also one they can learn from and be inspired by. Since the local audience profile is primarily young, producers should take heed. Here are some of their suggestions:

"I think that producers should look to making more movies featuring animals. I'm an animal lover, so I find most movies of this type entertaining.

"I like how these movies do not focus solely on human beings and their problems or triumphs. They also depict how certain situations that humans find themselves in affect their animal companions as well.

"I also appreciate the fact that these movies show that animals are not unfeeling creatures, but are also capable of experiencing pain (whether physical or emotional), contentment and satisfaction." — *Mark Reyes, 21*

"Movies with love stories that do not resolve themselves in the hero and heroine ending up together, getting married, and living happily ever after. Films in which the girl and guy end up together against impossible odds have become run-of-the-mill and have ceased to portray real life.

Ridiculous situations

"In fact, in their effort to have the hero and heroine end up together in an original way, some scriptwriters have resorted to them in all sorts of ridiculous situations, just to grab the audience's attention.

"I believe that in real life, one does not always end up with the person you love most, and some of our movies should depict that." — *Manuel Pinto, 19*

"I believe that more movies about volleyball should be made. Although sports movies are a dime a dozen, I have yet to watch one about volleyball. I happen to be a volleyball fanatic, and I think that watching a movie based on the game would help others learn to appreciate it more.

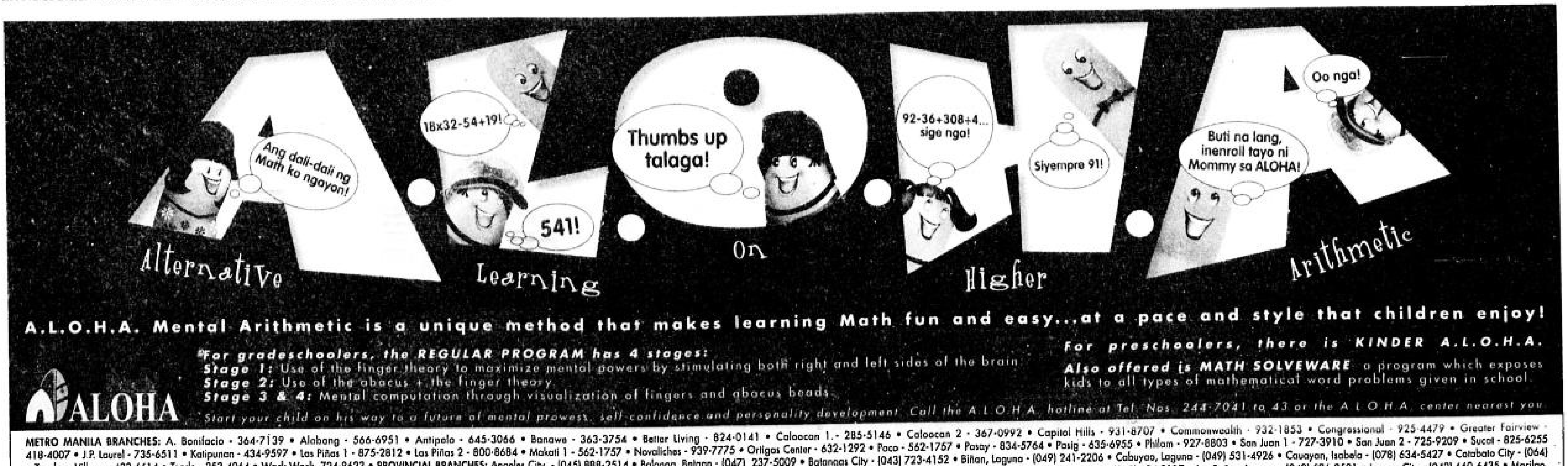
"As there are already a lot of movies featuring basketball, baseball, football and golf, I hope the next movie they make features volleyball and shows how enjoyable it is." — *Ian Baugbog, 20*

Emotions

"I want more movies which contain pleasing scenery. They should also use appropriate music to portray or enhance emotions. In short, I want more movies that are "poetry on film," — *Caesar Erese, 19*

"I would love it if 'Sandman: The Series' would to be made into a

WHAT/p.G6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Paul McCartney debuts as poet at hometown reading

BY ERIN SULLIVAN

LIVERPOOL, England —In an intimate theater half a dozen miles from his childhood home, Sir Paul McCartney stood alone on a bare stage Wednesday and did something he had never done before.

He read poetry, his poetry.

Smooth voice

In the smooth voice that has wooed millions over the four decades since the Fab Four first played the Cavern club, McCartney read selections from "Blackbird Singing," an anthology of 48 poems and song lyrics covering his time with the Beatles and his solo career.

"This is my first ever poetry reading, and I'm not in the least bit nervous, of course," McCartney joked as he took the stage.

Written between 1965 and 1999, the poems span McCartney's life, from early memories of Liverpool to massages he had in hotel rooms while on tour, the 1980 murder of fellow Beatle John Lennon and the loss of his wife Linda to breast cancer in 1998.

He also recited the lyrics to the Beatles' "Maxwell's Silver Hammer," and ended the reading with an audience-participation rendition of "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?"

Though he became the playbill's sweetheart, McCartney was meant to be a surprise guest in a lineup of three other poets—Tom Pickard, Willy Russell and Adrian Mitchell, who edited "Blackbird Singing."

"Paul wanted a group of people who wanted to see poetry —not him," said Paul Bell, press officer for the city's Everyman Theater, host of the event.

Bell said 340 of the 400 seats had been sold before McCartney's appearance hit the news on Monday. McCartney was offered readings at the Royal National Theater in London, the Oxford Union and the Los Angeles Festival of Books, but preferred to launch the book with a hometown gig, said Geoff Baker, McCartney's press officer.

"He said, 'If I'm going to do this, I want to do it in Liverpool first,'" Baker said. "It's not like he wants to do the Paul McCartney show—he wants to take it to the people. Someone called him the 'people's laureate,' and that's true."

Childhood pal

McCartney said he started writing poetry after the 1993 death of childhood pal Ivan Vaughan, the friend who introduced him to John Lennon.

"Ivan was my best friend from my school days and when he died that started me off writing poetry. Instead of writing a song I felt that this was the time to write a poem. It felt appropriate," he said.

The idea for an anthology of McCartney's poems was Linda's.

Little book

"Linda rang me up one day and said, 'Paul's written all these poems, let's make a little book printed privately and give it to him for his birthday,'" Mitchell said from his London home Tuesday evening. "The secret didn't last long —Paul always finds out what's going on. But that got us started on the book."

Mitchell, a former journalist who wrote the first article about The Beatles, said working on the book went "in waves," with bursts of progress and then lulls while McCartney hunted in old tea-chests for long forgotten poems and wrote fresh poetry.

"I'm not objective, but I enjoy his poems. I think they reflect parts of his mind very well," he said.

David Scott, a Liverpool resident who attended the reading, said McCartney "was really brave to put himself on the line" and step off the concert stage into the traditional, academic world of poetry.

The former Beatle said he was not worried about the critics' response to his poems.

"The critics are always mixed with me," he said. "I always say they sharpen their pencils when they see me coming. But I don't care, you know, they criticized 'Sergeant Pepper' and look what happened to that."

"Blackbird Singing" is published in the United States by W.W. Norton on April 24. *AP*

MCARTNEY. Started writing poetry after the death of a childhood pal.

Young writers hope to turn words into action for environment

ONE is never too young to know and understand the grave threat to the environment.

That's what the three young winners of this year's RCBC "7TH Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan" tilt amply demonstrate.

Folk tales

Whether from folk tales handed down from, generation to generation, from vivid images of death and destruction on television, or the magical, mystical creations of a popular author, all three winners of the annual competition sponsored by the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation seem to have clearly heard the message and learned the lesson well - that the environment is at risk and something has to be done about it.

And all three - although aged only 9, 12 and 13 - are planning to go beyond writing award-winning essays. They are hoping to help spread the word, within their own families and their peers that the environment is so fragile that it has to be cared for, nurtured, protected and preserved.

Nine-year-old Ritchel A. Modal, a Subannen studying at Palinta Elementary School in Palinta, Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur, retells the legend of how a stream was created in her community. Her story in Filipino chronicles how greed led to the destructive mining of a portion of Palinta and the cutting of trees.

Repeated pleas

Despite repeated pleas from fairies whose habitat was being destroyed, the man ordered to do the mining and cutting of trees continued with his destructive work. Then one day, torrential rains poured down, leaving a swamp in their wake. And, of the rich man and his large house no traces were left.

Jenny Pearl L. Fadul, 12, a student at Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Mati, Davao Oriental, got the idea for her essay from the disturbing images of destruction to life and property caused by the exploitation of natural resources. Using some very big Filipino words for somebody who lives in Cebuano-speaking Mati (the rich vocabulary is courtesy of her paternal relatives who live in Paete, Laguna), Jenny Pearl tells of a family driven by poverty to sell their small piece of land, which would be used for an industrial venture.

The decision is incomprehensible and unacceptable to the son who has been learning about how mindless destruction of natural resources could cause death and destruction.

Guilty pleasure

Writer Madeleine L'Engle's works gave Patricia Mae C. Cielo, 13, a student at the Colegio de San Agustin in Makati City, the idea for her futuristic, science-fiction essay in English. It describes a world where even the simple joy of watching the stars becomes a guilty pleasure.

Patricia Mae said her research for the essay showed that there were already some places in the world where things that people used to take for granted, even the oxygen that sustains human life, were becoming rare commodities.

All three girls are convinced that youth is no reason why they can't take more concrete action to help protect and preserve the environment. They say their research for their winning essays has heightened their awareness of the very real threat to the environment and the need to act now.

Ritchel hopes to do more than just write about the problem by reminding her parents to make sure they do not do anything to destroy the environment. She would also encourage her classmates to convince their own families to do likewise.

Jenny Pearl said she and her peers could start by being mindful about how they dispose of trash.

Patricia said kids like her could make a difference by helping protect and preserve different life forms.

Each of the three winners walks away with P30,000 in cash plus a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans, Inc. while the schools get P20,000 each, and their homeroom advisers receive P5,000 each.

MODAL. Her story depicts how greed led to destructive mining practices.

The Advantages of Having Credit Cards

Like loans, credit cards can help you build a positive credit history. And having a positive credit history opens up a world of opportunities for people in these modern times. With positive credit history a person's ability to get a loan, buy a car, , get a job, and eventually, try to buy a house is greatly enhanced. Of course, there are more advantages to having a credit card than simply building up one's credit history.

The credit card is security in cases of emergencies. When there is an unexpected medical emergency and medicines need to be bought; when the car gets damaged or is in need of fast repairs; when an item needs to be bought and there is not enough cash on hand; are but some of the emergencies that would be met with relative ease by any credit card holder.

With a credit card there is a reduced need to carry cash or checks. Cash and check pose serious security problems that carrying too much of them around causes undue stress and tension. The credit card eliminates this and give much more needed consumer protection to the cardholder. Security and consumer protection are two important components of a life of ease in today's world.

The credit card largely enhances personal responsibility and independence. With the credit card, there is no need to call Mom and ask for extra allowance. There is also no need to depend on the generosity of friends during gimmicks and outings. A person with the credit card can be as independent as he or she wants. And it comes with a lesson on personal responsibility. Credit card holders know so well the advantages of the credit card and thus work within the limit to truly benefit from it.

The use of the credit card increases the consumers' capacity to pay and hence they can purchase any item they want, when they want to. The pay later options afforded by the credit card is far more convenient than saving the money and waiting over such long periods of time before you can buy the item of your fancy.

Credit allows consumers to take advantage of seasonal sales or to avoid anticipated price increases. The credit card cushions the impact of inflation and changes in the economy in much the same way as the installment scheme cushions the effect of an outright cash purchase.

Cool discounts, fun and exciting rewards and incentives, special gift items, concert tickets, and a whole lot more await the credit card holder. The consistent and continuous use of the credit card motivates merchants and credit card companies to give back rewards and incentives to the consumers. These incentives range from ball pen giveaways to frequent flyer – miles that allows you to travel free. The consumers use the card more and the credit card companies give in more rewards. The cycle goes on and on. And both parties benefit from the set-up.

The credit card has come a long way since its humble beginnings and from the looks of things, it will continue to do so in the years to come. Hopefully with the advances in technology people will see the value of the credit card and get in on the best thing to ever happen to the banking system since cash – the credit card.

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What movies . . . (From page G6)

movie. I find the stories very metaphorical in that The Endless (Death, Dream, Delirium, Destruction, Desire) represent the tangible truth underlying the different mysteries of life. It is also very mythological and comes up with explanations for some things that would otherwise be unexplainable." *—Rania Bahjin, 20*

"I have always found myself fascinated with stories concerning Near-Death

Experiences, or NDEs. I find these stories captivating because they make me think about things I normally wouldn't think about. These stories make me evaluate my life and help me to better appreciate small and seemingly insignificant things more."

"They also reinforce my faith in God and give me hope that there is, indeed, something waiting for all of us beyond this life. I think most of us could do with a dose of that every once in a while!" *— Lou Peñaflor, 22*

Movies are usually made for the money, for fame and for entertainment. There are a few which have been made because the people involved in making them believed in their insights so much that they had to share them with other people.

"There are also people who make movies that don't conform to the norm in order to shock viewers or to rebel against the conventional moviemakers.

"Unfortunately, not all of us have the opportunity to make movies. So, we settle for saying, 'I wish there were a movie about.. ' and pray that someone up there in movieland hears our prayer and decides to grant our wish. So, I wish there were a movie about. . but that's another story! – *Andy Borja, 23*

MATH WASN'T THEIR FAVORITE SUBJECT UNTIL...

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CAME INTO THE PICTURE!

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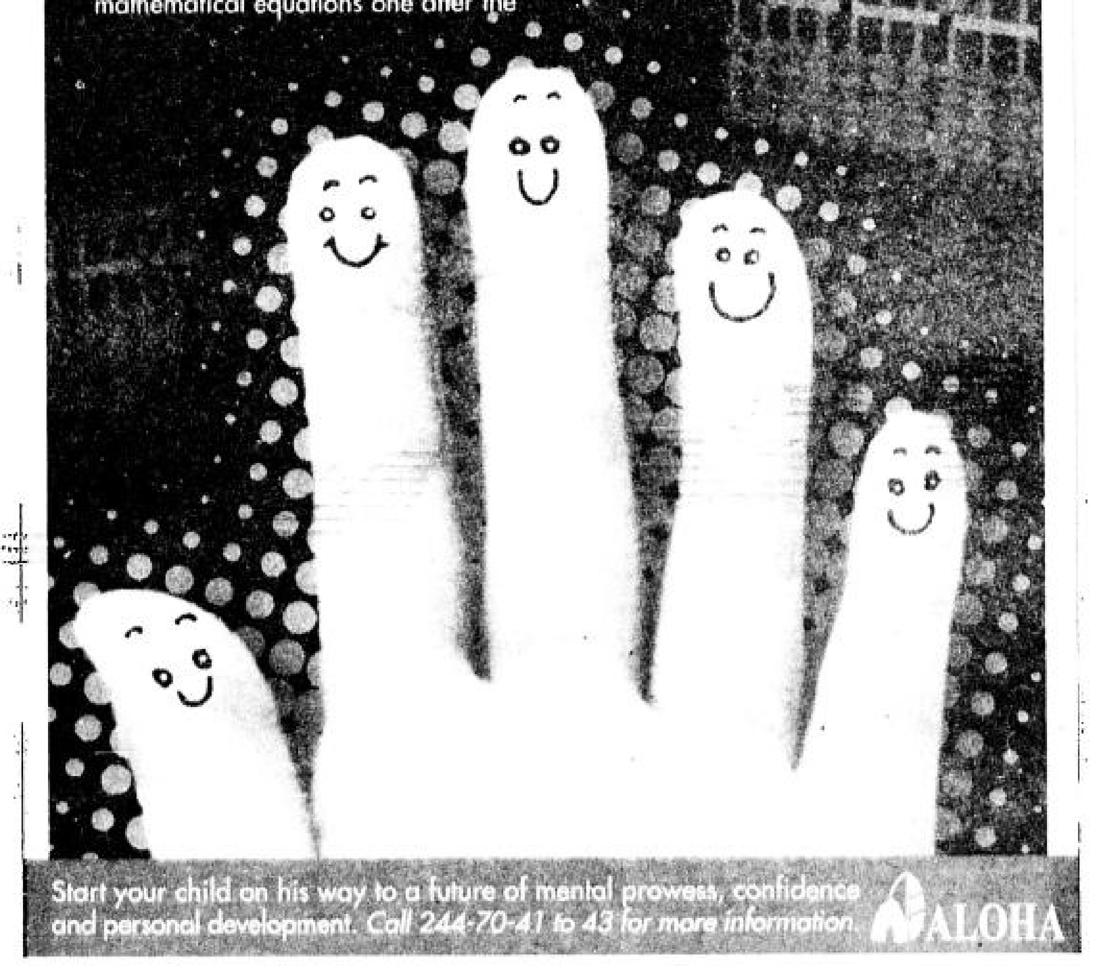
At stage 2, the abacus is used in making calculations, along with the finger theory.
At stage 3 and 4, children calculate mentally by visualizing the abacus beads and the fingers.

A.L.O.H.A. managing director for the Philippines Prof. Mer Elenzano thought this method was too good to be true until A.L.O.H.A. founder Dr. Loh invited him to Malaysia to see the method at work. There, he saw 6 and 7 year olds bombarded with mathematical equations one after the other. To make sure the answers were not scripted, Mr. Elenzano made his own sets of equations, which the children were able to answer with amazing speed and accuracy! From 14 centers in 1998, there are now over 50 centers in the Philippines. The company also has joint ventures with 15 schools, where Mental Math has become as popular as Taekwondo, football and basketball.
Any adult would certainly get intimidated to see how little children are able to solve mathematical equations without the aid of a calculator, pen or paper...and all in just a matter of seconds!

But aside from dramatically improving Math skills, children trained in A.L.O.H.A. also do well in other subjects because the method maximizes both logical and creative faculties of the brain. They likewise develop a very positive attitude towards learning in general, as they continue to boost their self-confidence.



Start your child on his way to a future of mental prowess, confidence and personal development. *Call 244-70-41 to 43 for more information.* ALOHA

ON a natural high after winning as Best Actress, Julia Roberts talked a blue streak.

Some upsets and a strong Asian presence at 2000 Oscar awards

By Nestor U. Torre

THE RECENT Oscar Awards rites for Film Year 2000 were generally conservative and laid-back, made unique mainly by a strong Asian presence, some memorable special awards, and a couple of exceptional acceptance speeches.

Tough act to follow

Host Steve Martin had a tough act to follow in Billy Crystal, who's emceed a number of past Oscar shows in his inimitably flashy style. To his credit, Martin didn't even try to compete with his popular predecessor, and made his own mark by way of a more "homey," personal approach.

He made it a point to greet the nominees in the audience, and offered a free TV set to the winner who would come up with the shortest acceptance speech that night, hinting that Julia Roberts would find that announcement interesting.

Much later, when Roberts won the Best Actress trophy for her performance in "Erin Brockovich," she turned her acceptance speech into a running gag when she adverted to Martin's proffered incentive, and said that she already had a TV set, so she was going to talk as long as she wanted to, thanks very much.

Mutual ribbing

It was that kind of cheerful mutual ribbing that made the awards night more like a chummy meeting of friends than a highly-charged, ultra-competitive affair—although tension *was* running high, as indicated by Best Actor winner Russell Crowe's inability to immediately lope to the stage to seize his trophy because his legs refused to cooperate…

But that's getting ahead of our story. Let's get back on track by recalling Martin's first quotable quote for the evening: "Hosting the Oscars is like making love to a beautiful woman—something I get to do only when Billy Crystal is out of town!"

First sign

Then came the first sign that the evening was going to have a strong Asian flavor: the set design award went to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

This was followed by another minor upset: Marcia Gay Harden romped off with the Best Supporting Actress award for her portrayal of Jackson Pollock's wife in Ed Harris' "Pollock."

This was completely unexpected, considering that "Pollock" was regarded as a small film when compared to a behemoth like "Gladiator." Was this going to be a night of upsets?

Yes, said the next award—for editing, which was awarded to another "small" film, "Traffic." But the trend screeched to a halt with the Best Costume citation for the popular "Gladiator."

Still, it resumed its progression anew with the Best Supporting Actor award, which went to "Traffic's" Benicio Del Toro. *Ole*!

Charisma

The Latin actor radiated great charisma as he received the trophy, and his stellar career took a quantum leap that night in the eyes of the awards show's viewers, who knew a Star of Tomorrow when they saw one.

Next upset decision: the Best Cinematography award went to "Crouching Tiger…"! It really *was* Asia's night to crow!

The evening's Asian dimension was further underscored when Coco Lee was tapped to sing one of the Oscar-nominated songs. She looked relatively prim and proper and sang in a "serious" manner—a far cry from the Coco Lee we've seen performing abroad, looking, moving and singing more like an Asian Mariah Carey than the inscrutable Asian chanteuse she tried to reinvent herself as at the Oscars show.

Transformation

Her instant transformation was striking, but it didn't show off her performing talent to best advantage. In fact, after her stilted, lackluster performance at the Oscars, Lee should vow to herself never to "go serious" on herself and her audience ever again.

After a couple of so-so awards categories, the show came to one of its highlights: a special award to ace director-cinematographer Jack Cardiff. After 70 years in the movies, Cardiff was still in fine fettle and came up with a memorable acceptance speech.

Dream come true

In a clever conceit, he referred to the evening as a dream come true for him, because he saw the Oscars show as a big production with an all-star cast to beat all stellar combinations. It was amazing, something that he'd waited his whole lifetime to be a part of—the ultimate honor that made all of his decades in the movies worthwhile!

It was a wonderful moment, made special not only by Cardiff's gift for words, but by his obvious, abiding love for movies and moviegoers. They really don't make filmmakers like they used to! ***(To be concluded)***

Female bonding in 'F' and 'TV Patrol's' new power team

By Remy M. Umerez

THE "F" show turned two last month, a cause for celebration for its three female hosts, Cher Calvin, Daphne Oseña and Angel Aquino.

Contrary to rumors, the three hit it off right after their second episode. No amount of intrigue can destroy the friendship and trust the three have.

They have many things in common. Family values, for one. Cher makes it a point to visit her family in New York regularly because she misses her father (former actor Roger Calvin) a lot.

Research

A graduate of journalism (NYU) Cher does her own research, specially on topics she knows very little about.

Daphne is Daddy's girl and an executive producer in her own right. She is at her happiest when she is with her family.

The former newscaster has a degree in Urban Planning and Art History from the University of Toronto. In 1995, she was sent to the Philippines as an urban planner. She then trained under ABS-CBN reporter Tony Velasquez on political coverage inside Malacañang and although she liked the job, Daphne figured that there were too many in the field already.

Hosting "F" is a breather for Daphne who describes the show as a fusion of everything, including lifestyle, sports and food.

Actress Angel Aquino came into the show by accident. Having three hosts was not the original idea until the producers spotted Angel in the studio. Angel was asked to audition and got the part.

Devoted mother

A devoted mother, Angel likes the freshness the show offers, specially to Gen X viewers.

To mark their second year anniversary, the three glamorous hosts were brought to an island in Palawan, trading in their designer clothes for outdoor gear as "F" held its own version of "Survivor."

And what have they learned from the experience?

"That we can survive on one can of pork and beans, sleep on the ground, forego taking a bath. The entire experience was a test of physical endurance," Angel says.

New 'TV Patrol' team

Meanwhile, the high-rating news program, "TV Patrol" has been relaunched with a new Power Team of broadcasters headed by Korina Sanchez, Henry Omaga Diaz and Aljo Bendijo. It promises to be more action-packed, particularly in terms of political stories, since the election fever is heating up.

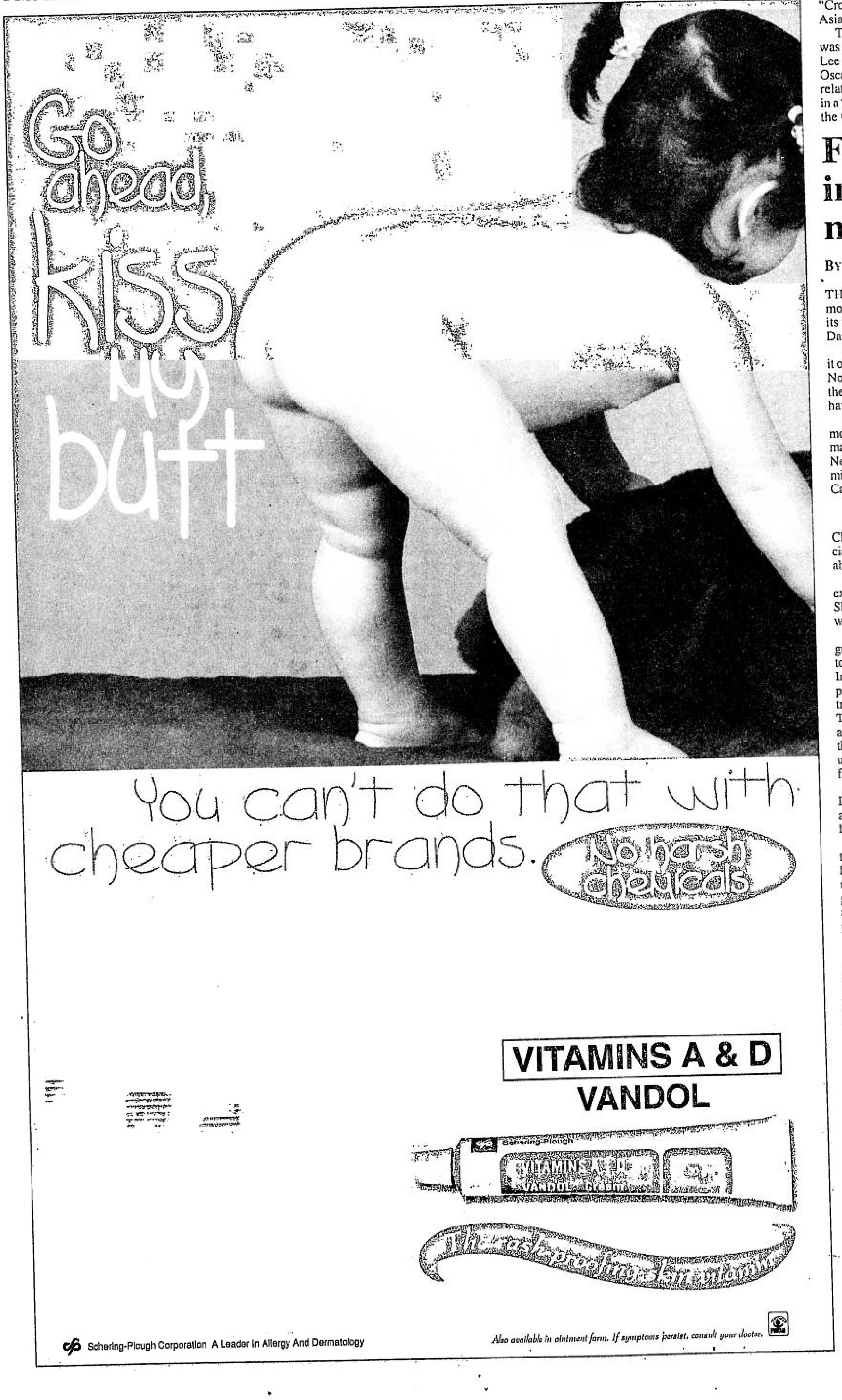
Main anchor is Korina, currently ABS-CBN Intergrated News and Current Affairs Group's Manager for Public Service.

Co-host is Henry Omaga Diaz, a familiar figure to regular viewers of the show.

Henry was on top of many of the network's news coverages, including the Basilan skirmishes of 2000. Henry's reports include a risky exposé on the Spratley Islands. He and his crew went missing for a week, then came back with exclusive footage.

A new face is Aljo Bendijo of Davao. An experienced TV and radio news reporter, Aljo has worked as executive producer and director of the top rating news broadcast "Maayong Buntag Mindanao" as well as the anchor of the local edition of "Hoy Gising Mindanao."

ANGEL Aquino co-hosts "F" with Cher Calvin and Daphne Oseña.



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Saturday SPECIAL

Domain rules

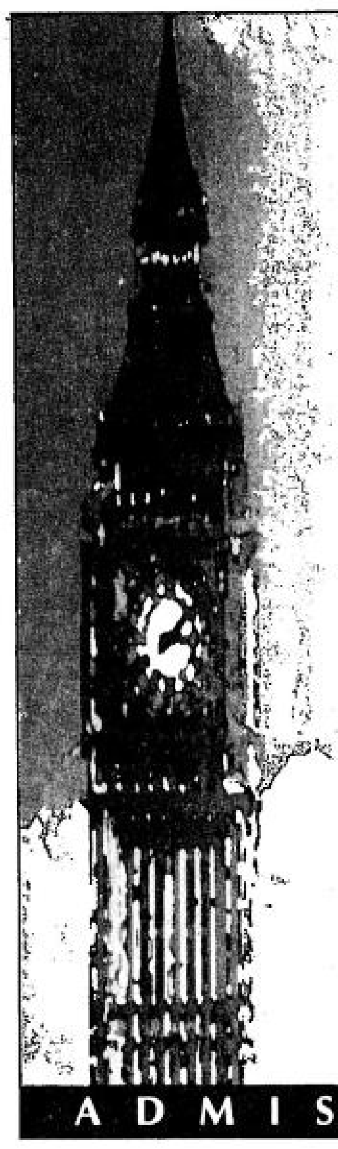
VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE BOYBAND and boygroup phenomenon has made a big mark on the global entertainment scene, and local versions are on the increase. One of the most promising is the group of fresh-faced young singers and dancers known as Domain.

Members King, Jay-R, MJ and Burn have worked hard on their act to give it the vitality, gloss and youthful appeal that click with local pop fans.

DOMAIN/p.H3



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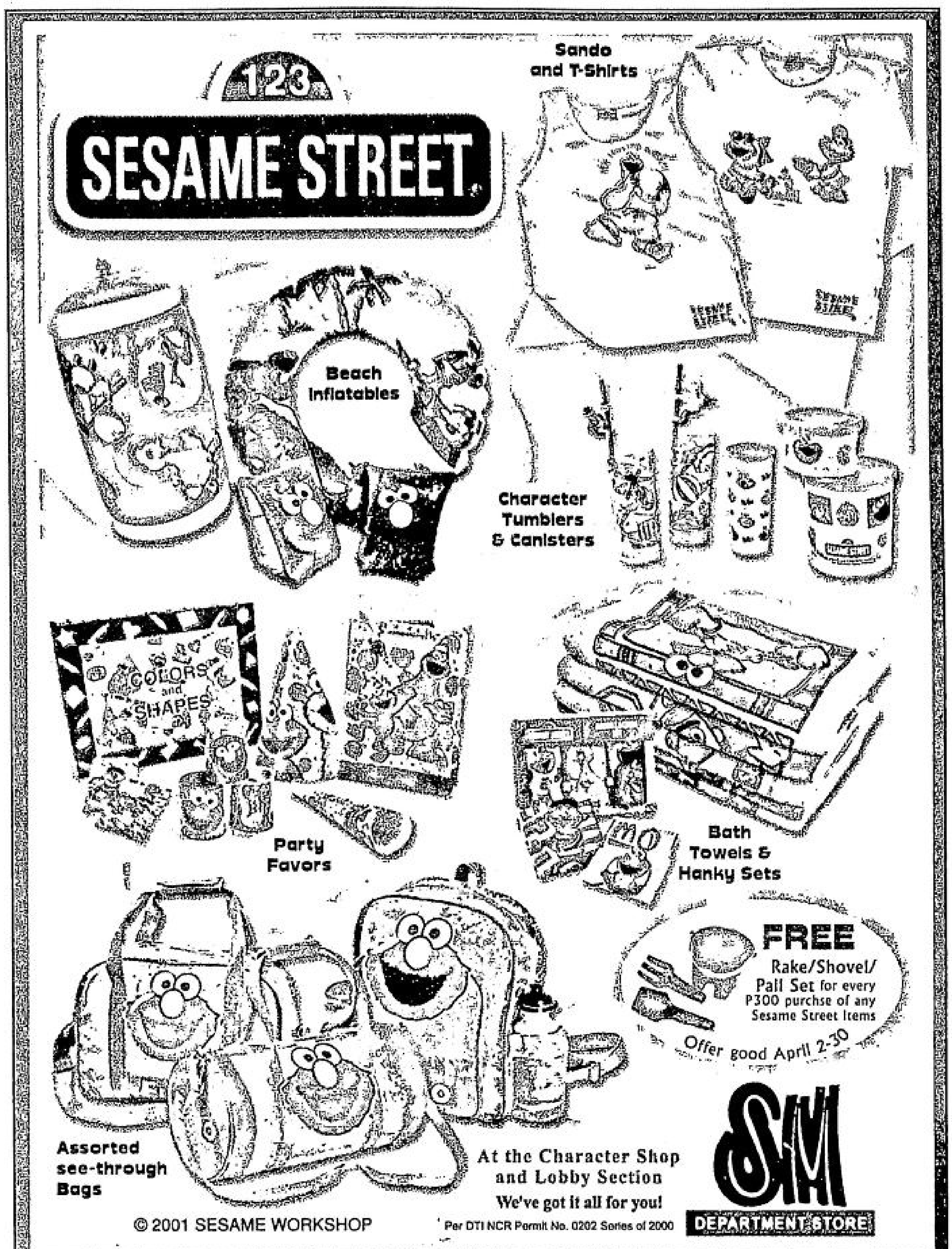

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Tuna Broccoli in Oyster Sauce

Ingredients:

1	teaspoon	ginger, chopped
1	teaspoon	garlic, chopped
1/2	cup	sliced mushrooms
1/2	cup	red bell pepper, strips
1	184 g can	CENTURY TUNA CHUNKS IN OIL, drained
2	cups	broccoli, cut up
2	tablespoons	oyster sauce
2	tablespoons	sugar
1 1/2	tablespoons	cornstarch
1/4	cup	water
	few drops	sesame oil

Procedure:

In a pan, heat oil from tuna, sauté ginger and garlic. Add mushrooms and red pepper. Add tuna and toss in broccoli. Cook for two minutes. Mix together oyster sauce, sugar, cornstarch, water, and sesame oil. Pour mixture into the broccoli and mix gently. Cook for another minute, serve hot. Makes 4 servings.

For more delicious and healthy recipes, write to:
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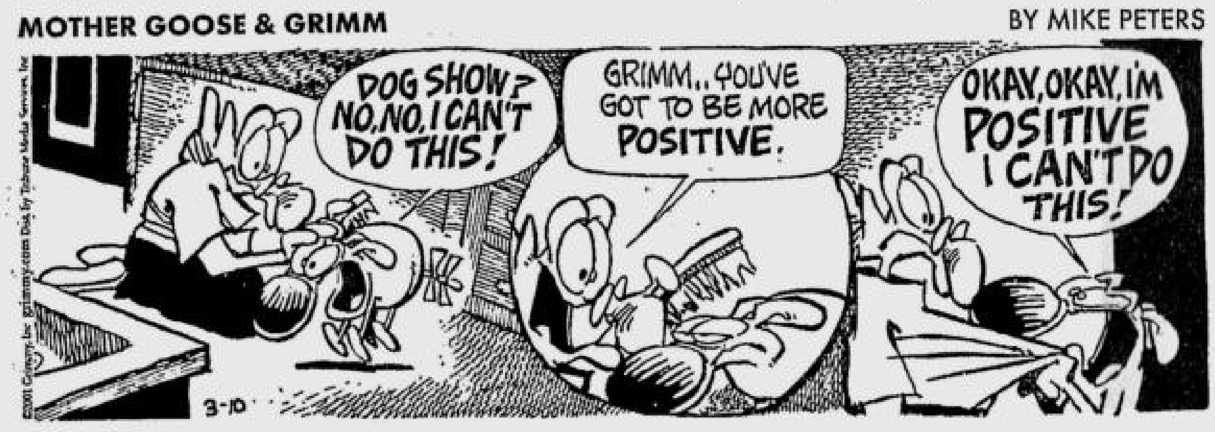
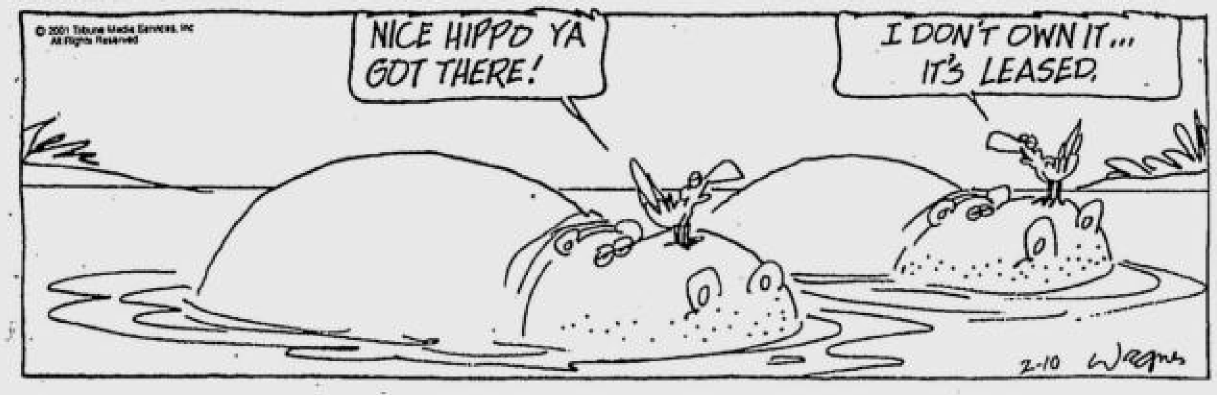
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DOG SHOW? NO, NO, I CAN'T DO THIS!
GRIMM.. YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE POSITIVE.
OKAY, OKAY, I'M POSITIVE I CAN'T DO THIS!
3-10

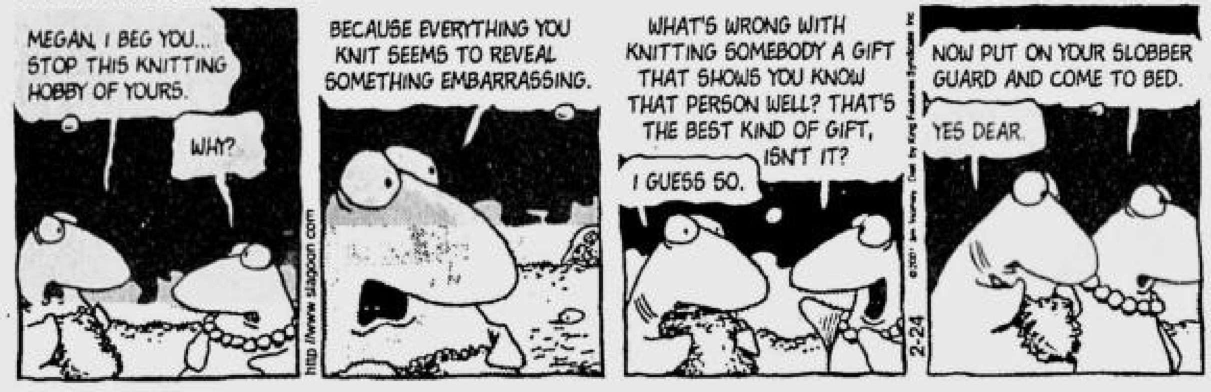
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


NICE HIPPO YA GOT THERE!
I DON'T OWN IT... IT'S LEASED.
2-10 Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, I BEG YOU... STOP THIS KNITTING HOBBY OF YOURS.
WHY?
BECAUSE EVERYTHING YOU KNIT SEEMS TO REVEAL SOMETHING EMBARRASSING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH KNITTING SOMEBODY A GIFT THAT SHOWS YOU KNOW THAT PERSON WELL? THAT'S THE BEST KIND OF GIFT, ISN'T IT?
I GUESS SO.
NOW PUT ON YOUR SLOBBER GUARD AND COME TO BED.
YES DEAR.
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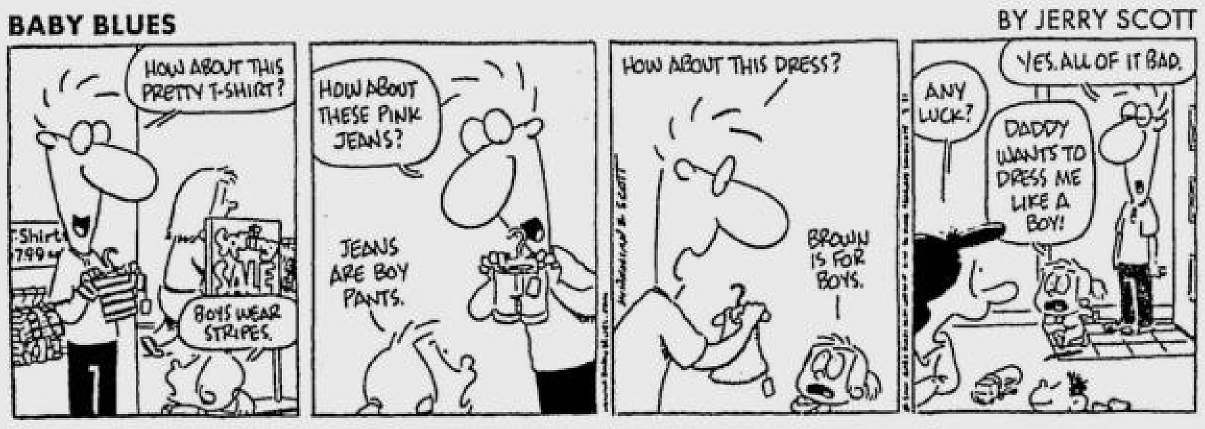
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW ABOUT THIS PRETTY T-SHIRT?
T-Shirt 7.99
SALE
BOYS WEAR STRIPES.
HOW ABOUT THESE PINK JEANS?
JEANS ARE BOY PANTS.
HOW ABOUT THIS DRESS?
BROWN IS FOR BOYS.
ANY LUCK?
YES. ALL OF IT BAD.
DADDY WANTS TO DRESS ME LIKE A BOY!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Francis Ford Coppola, Billie Holiday, Ravi Shankar, Russell Crowe, James Garner, Jackie Chan, Janis Ian

Happy Birthday: You're off to the races this year. Nothing will stand in your way if you are quick to jump on opportunities. You will face any challenge head-on knowing that you have what it takes to do the best job possible. You will not let any setback slow you down or stop your progress regardless of what anyone else says or does. Your numbers: 3, 8, 18, 25, 28, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get off to an early start. This will be a great day to make those personal changes you've been contemplating. You can dodge disagreements with loved ones if you keep busy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take your frustrations out on others. Join clubs that will provide you with the physical exertion you need. Take care of your own needs and forget about what others are doing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The female members of your family will be hard to deal with. Try to stay calm even if someone is trying to push you into an argument. Moves or home-improvement plans will be costly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The ideal mate will surface if you start doing things that you enjoy yourself. You need to interact more if you want to round out your life. Staying home won't help your present situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is not the best time to take a risk, gamble or spend money you really can't afford to part with. Your generous nature will be taken advantage of.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be emotionally up and down. Don't take your frustrations out on loved ones. Do things that involve children. You will be able to work with fine detail if you are following a creative direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make beautiful changes to your living quarters. Try to surprise the one you love with special plans for two. Don't listen to friends who aren't totally aware of your situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Relationships will be passionate but probably move too quickly. You have a way of mesmerizing the one you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't try to impress superiors by making someone look bad. Your attitudes and opinions regarding what you want in a mate are changing. It may be time to re-evaluate your motives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): New acquaintances will spark some pretty good ideas in you. You can invest in joint ventures, but make sure that you aren't the only one putting in the cash.

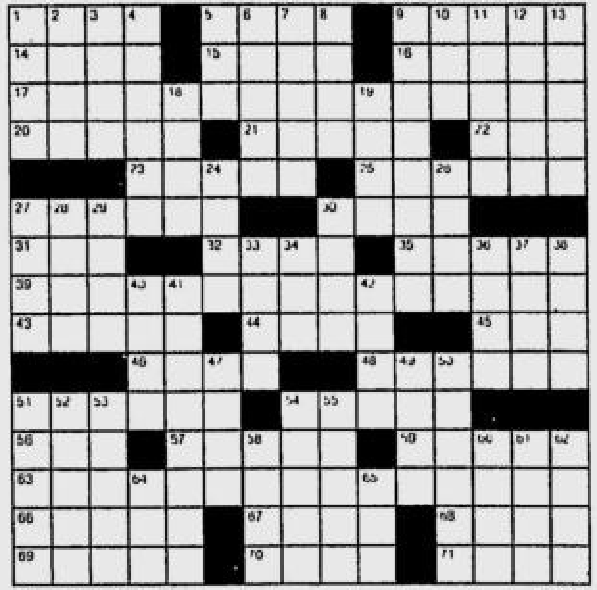
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't get depressed about things that didn't turn out in the past. Get on with your life and start meeting new people. Only you can make the changes necessary to your happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional life will suffer if you've been playing both ends against the middle. Social activities will be fun, but avoid overindulgences.

Birthday Baby: You are attractive, engaging and know how to work a crowd. You have poise, charisma and sophistication. Because you know how to get others to listen, you will be noticed and admired by your peers.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
2/22/01

ACROSS
1 Knocks one's socks off
5 Wacky in Wimbledon
9 Commonplace
14 Way out
15 Aroma
16 Marry on the run
17 Lower than low
20 Curl one's upper lip
21 External
22 Actress MacGraw
23 Floppies
25 Break one's heart
27 Picture puzzle
30 Eyelid malady
31 State north of Nev.
32 Villain in "Othello"
35 Relieves
39 Not readily apparent
43 Soothing ointment
44 Arabian sultanate
45 Thar __ blows!
46 Spot
48 __ Creek, B.C.
51 Ancient rival of Athens
54 Wynonna's mom
56 Greek cross
57 Presley or Costello
59 "__ Gay"
63 Well-secured
66 Pretend to
67 As soon as
68 Impulse
69 Beats with a rod
70 Stitched
71 Overtake

DOWN
1 Spider traps
2 Cart-pulling team
3 Hock or port
4 Spirited horses
5 Speck
6 __ committee
7 Lens adjustment
8 Quick step
9 Double-crosser
10 Pub order
11 Constant traveler
12 Tell's target
13 Grant entry
18 Operatic highlight
19 Tree house?
24 "M*A*S*H" co-star
26 Unhearing
27 Forward sails
28 Novel thought
29 Insolence
30 Slugger Sammy
33 Sailor's call
34 Jewel
36 Give lip
37 Return caller
38 Observed
40 Finished
41 Shoot-'em-ups
42 Disassemble
47 Cast gloom over
49 Last word in prayers
50 Pitcher's motion
51 Pack to capacity
52 Jury
53 Sound track
54 Alcove
55 Awry
58 Solemn words
60 Gumbo vegetable
61 Pants parts
62 Positive votes
64 Nest item
65 East Coast cape

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	E	A	M	■	S	W	A	L	E	■	L	I	N	T
A	U	R	A	■	L	A	D	E	S	■	A	S	E	A
B	R	I	N	K	O	F	D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R
S	O	D	■	O	P	T	S	■	■	V	E	L	D	T
■	■	■	M	O	P	S	■	P	E	E	R	E	S	S
F	R	E	A	K	Y	■	E	A	R	N	S	■	■	■
E	A	S	Y	■	■	S	P	R	I	G	■	B	O	O
T	I	P	O	F	T	H	E	I	C	E	B	E	R	G
A	N	Y	■	L	Y	R	E	S	■	■	R	E	E	L
■	■	■	P	O	P	E	S	■	C	R	U	S	O	E
S	P	A	R	R	O	W	■	S	H	U	T	■	■	■
A	R	G	U	E	■	■	O	P	E	N	■	Q	U	O
P	O	I	N	T	O	F	N	O	R	E	T	U	R	N
I	S	L	E	■	R	O	T	O	R	■	W	I	D	E
D	E	E	D	■	E	B	O	N	Y	■	O	P	U	S

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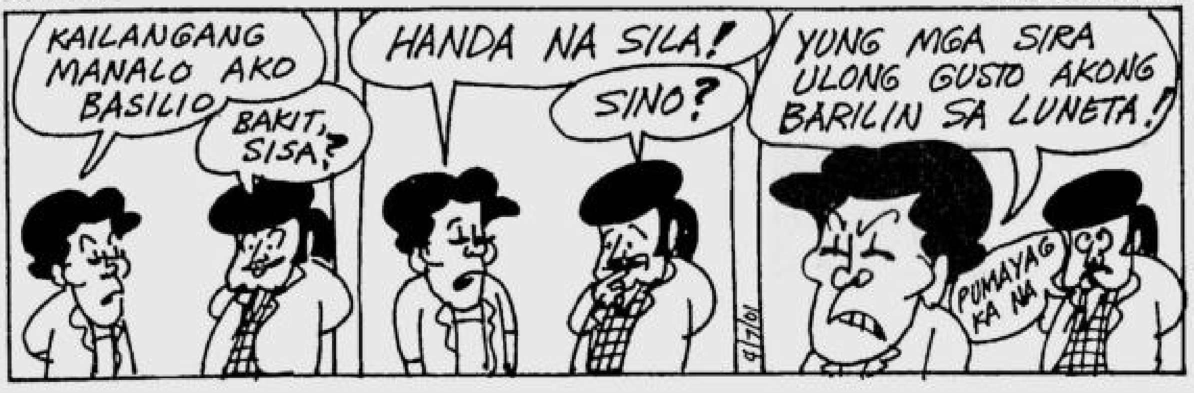
2/22/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

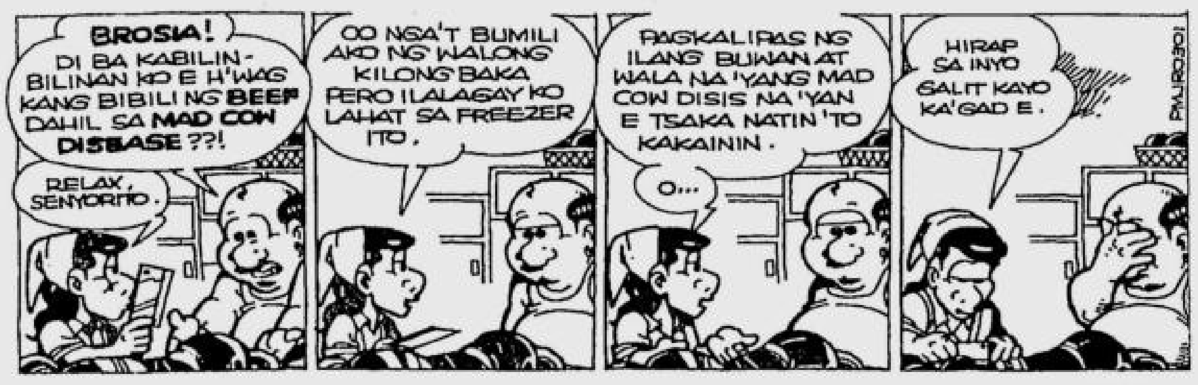
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGANG MANALO AKO BASILIO
BAKIT, SISA?
HANDA NA SILA!
SINO?
YUNG MGA SIRA ULONG GUSTO AKONG BARILIN SA LUNETA!
PUMAYAG KA NA
4/7/01

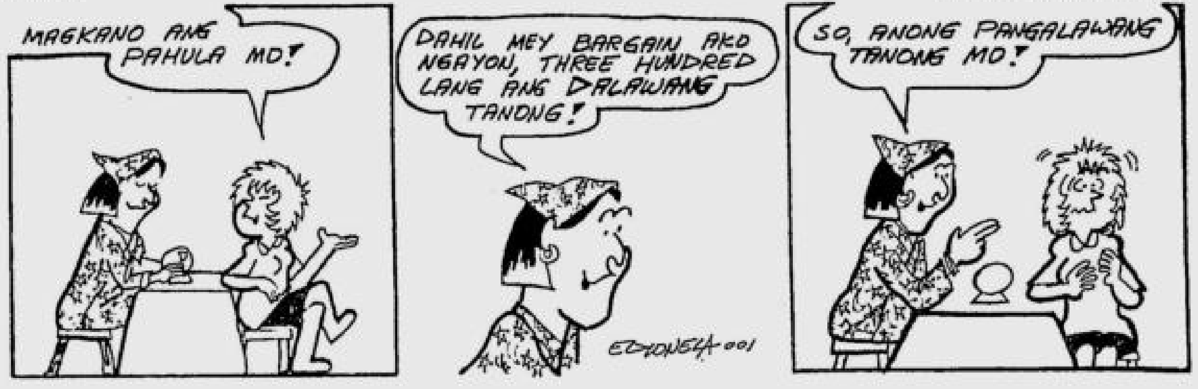
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BROSIA! DI BA KABILIN-BILINAN KO E H'WAG KANG BIBILI NG BEEF DAHIL SA MAD COW DISEASE??!
RELAX, SENYORITO.
OO NGA'T BUMILI AKO NG WALONG KILONG BAKA PERO ILALAGAY KO LAHAT SA FREEZER ITO.
PAGKALIPAS NG ILANG BUWAN AT WALA NA 'YANG MAD COW DISIS NA 'YAN E TSAKA NATIN 'TO KAKAININ.
O...
HIRAP SA INYO SALIT KAYO KA'GAD E.
PMJR0301

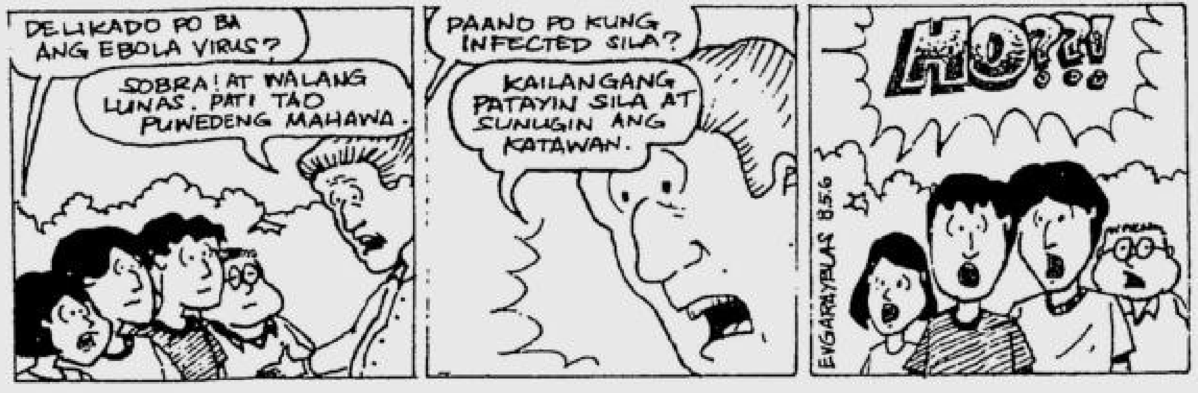
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAGKANO ANG PAHULA MO?
DAHIL MEY BARGAIN AKO NGAYON, THREE HUNDRED LANG ANG DALAWANG TANONG!
SO, ANONG PANGALAWANG TANONG MO?
EDYONELA 001

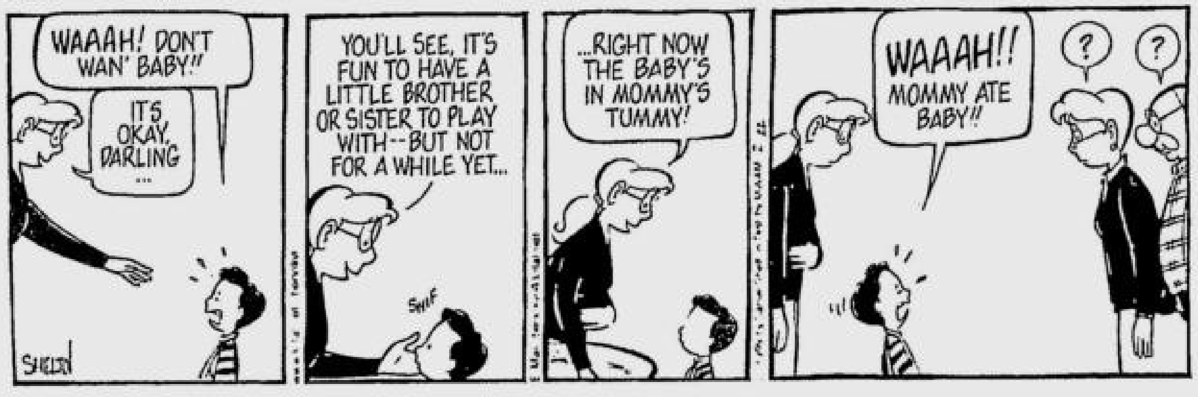
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


DELIKADO PO BA ANG EBOLA VIRUS?
SOBRA! AT WALANG LUNAS. PATI TAO PUWEDENG MAHAWA.
PAANO PO KUNG INFECTED SILA?
KAILANGANG PATAYIN SILA AT SUNUGIN ANG KATAWAN.
HO?!!
EVGARBYBLAS 8.5.6

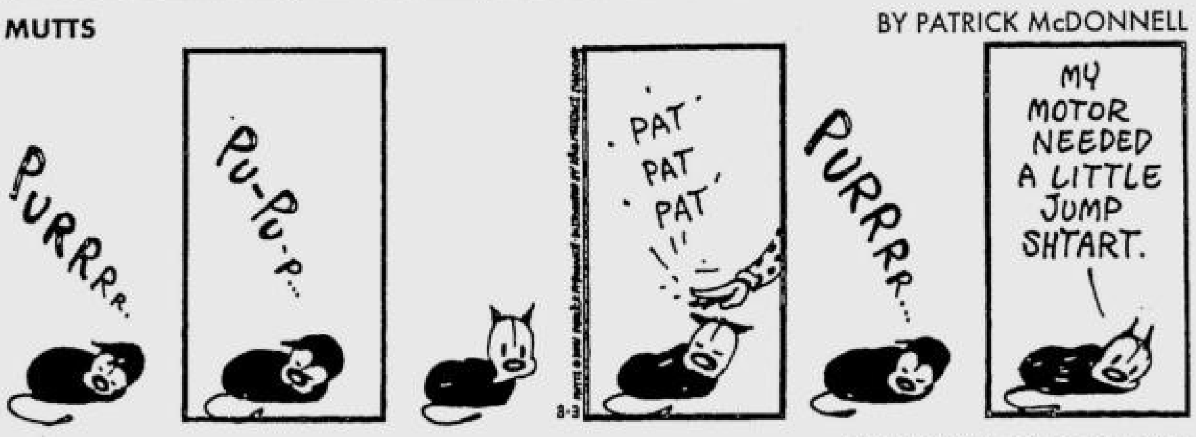
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAH! DON'T WAN' BABY!!
IT'S OKAY, DARLING ...
YOU'LL SEE, IT'S FUN TO HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER TO PLAY WITH--BUT NOT FOR A WHILE YET...
SNIF
...RIGHT NOW THE BABY'S IN MOMMY'S TUMMY!
WAAAH!! MOMMY ATE BABY!!
?
?
SHELTON

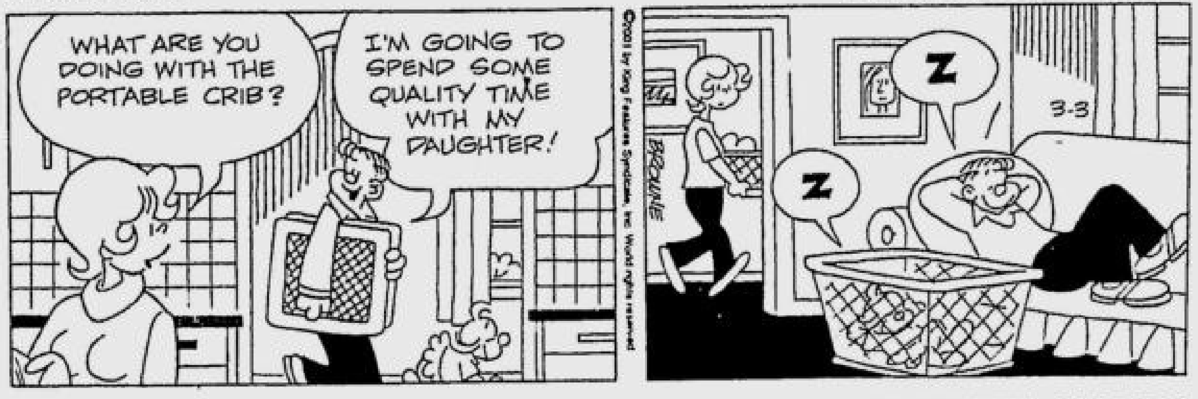
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PURRRR.
PU-PU-P...
PAT PAT PAT
PURRRR...
MY MOTOR NEEDED A LITTLE JUMP SHTART.
8-3

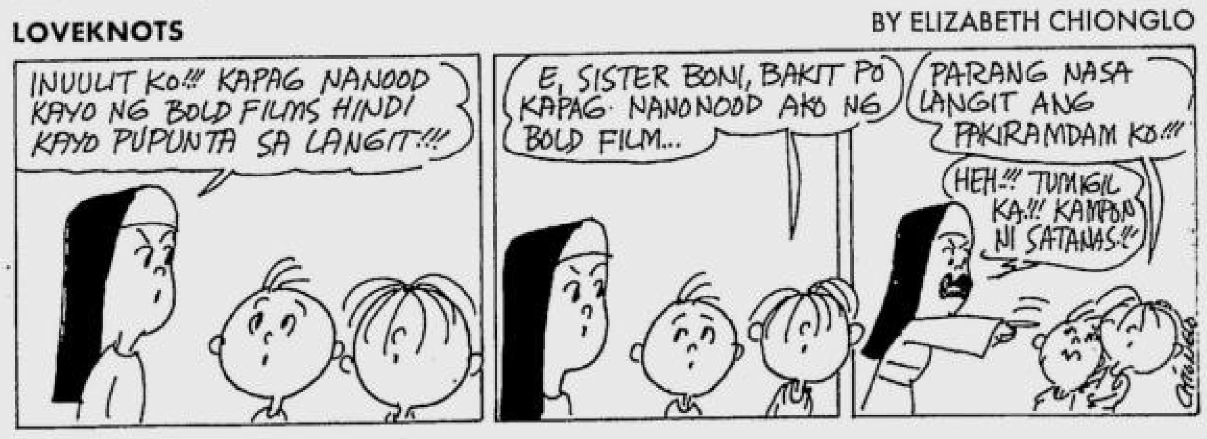
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE PORTABLE CRIB?
I'M GOING TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH MY DAUGHTER!
Z
Z
3-3

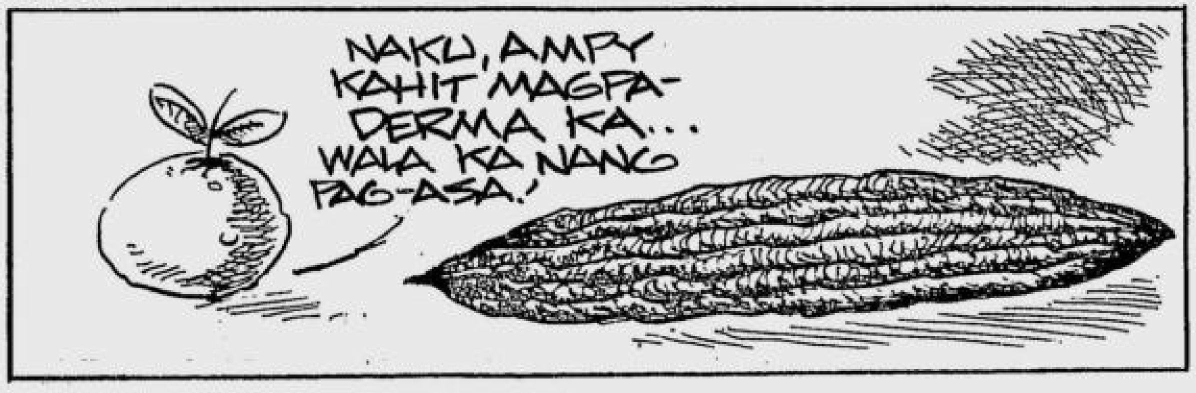
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


INUULIT KO!!! KAPAG NANOOD KAYO NG BOLD FILMS HINDI KAYO PUPUNTA SA LANGIT!!!
E, SISTER BONI, BAKIT PO KAPAG NANONOOD AKO NG BOLD FILM...
PARANG NASA LANGIT ANG PAKIRAMDAM KO!!!
HEH!!! TUMIGIL KA!!! KAMPON NI SATANAS!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKU, AMPY KAHIT MAGPA-DERMA KA... WALA KA NANG PAG-ASA!

MITCH Valdes pokes fun at politics, Pinoy-style, at Music Museum.

DOMAIN. Vitality, gloss and youthful appeal make King, Jay-R, MJ and Burn click with local pop fans.

Domain . . .

(From page H1)

Helping them polish up their act are their manager, George Roca, vocal coach Tony Carpio, Boying Eustaquio, Ojie Mendoza and Edgar Soriano.

Domain has performed in many mall, campus and out-of-town shows, and is seen regularly every Saturday night on GMA-7's "Master Showman Presents."

Feedback

From Monique Wilson: "I'm in London now, busy with acting classes and preparing for my MA. I just wanted to say thank you for your faith in my abilities, specifically my performance in 'Laro sa Baga.' I was really touched when I read your encouraging words. Thank you so much!

"I wish I could have been there to receive my Urian award so I could thank you personally. Thank you also for your support for 'The Vagina Monologues' and V-Day.

"Things are very exciting now at New Voice Company. Aside from all our projects and workshops, we are opening a brand-new NVC Actor's Studio at San Antonio Village, Makati. Our classes there start on April 16.

"This new studio is a dream come true for us and we have many plans for it. This is a place where people can seriously train for the theater. After the workshop classes, we will officially open the studio with a big event. Much love!"

'Salamat, Tita King!'

On Sunday, April 8, Concert at the Park pays tribute to National Artist Lucrecia "Tita King" Kasilag. Featured in the special program aptly titled "Salamat, Tita King" is the Philippine Women's University Music Ensemble.

Kasilag's music ensemble is a group of faculty members and students of PWU's College of Music, formed in 1974 and dedicated to the dissemination of and appreciation for traditional and contemporary Philippine music. It consists of four sections—the Kulintang Ensemble, the Anklung Ensemble, the PME Chorale and the Guitar Quartet.

This Sunday's program: "Taghoy sa Kalikasan" (Toledo), "Kulintang, Prelude Etnika" (Kasilag/ arr. Valdez), "Owak" (Kasilag), "Improvisations No. 3 for Muslim Gamelan" (Kasilag), "Pahilaga" (Cayabyab), "Philippine Medley" (arr: Valdez), and "Visayan Folksongs" and "Divertissement for Two Pianos and Percussions" (Kasilag).

'Mitch-ing De Abanse'

Inimitable singer-comedienne Mitch Valdes is starring in "Mitch-ing De Abanse (A Live Show)" on April 27 and 28 at Music Museum.

Expect Mitch to go to town with satirical references to the local political and electoral scenes, which can be humorous in their own right, but are even more pointedly and hysterically funny after they've been given more comic twists by Mitch.

Statement

Viva Entertainment CEO Vic del Rosario, Jr. has released this statement on the controversy over "Live Show" and other related developments:

"Amid the furor caused by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's decision to recall the movie 'Live Show' and to accept the resignation of Dr. Nicanor Tiongson as chairman of the MTRCB, we in the motion picture industry are called upon to carefully weigh the issues spawned by the controversy.

"We understand the need of our recently-installed president and the leaders of the Catholic Church to exercise their moral imperative to effect strong spiritual consciousness and fortitude. We also need to support the core beliefs and pillars of good government laid out by the Arroyo administration which spells the improvement of moral standards both in government and society.

"At the same time, we are also aware that film is an art form that mirrors real life and that there is always a burning need on the part of responsible filmmakers to perpetuate truth in the medium. Any move perceived to be a curtailment of freedom of expression will surely result in strong resistance on the part of these artists.

"The impasse that resulted from the meeting of these two strong forces is where we stand at the moment and we all know that this can spell disastrous effects for the greater majority in the long term.

"We know that President Arroyo has her hands full addressing the numerous issues of he day and the real concerns of the Filipino people. There are also pressing issues that the motion picture industry has to address at this moment, like high taxes and film piracy.

"While we firmly believe that the repression of the freedom of expression is something that both sides should not take lightly, we also see the need for sobriety and for the parties concerned to get together for a dialogue to find a common ground where good taste and decency can thrive alongside artistic expression."

You're in for some

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RING-A-BEAR GAME

Promo Mechanics:

- Promo will be held in selected supermarkets nationwide during the weekends of March, April and May.
- Purchasers of any Johnson's Pure Essentials Facial Cleanser, Lotion or Soap automatically get to play the "Ring-A-Bear" game and get a chance to win any of the exciting teen prizes.
- Participants shall present her receipt as proof of purchase at the "Ring-a-Bear" booth situated within the venue.
- Customer will be given three (3) hoops which she has to throw onto the stuffed bear.
- Prize will depend on the number of hoops that fall on the neck of the bear.

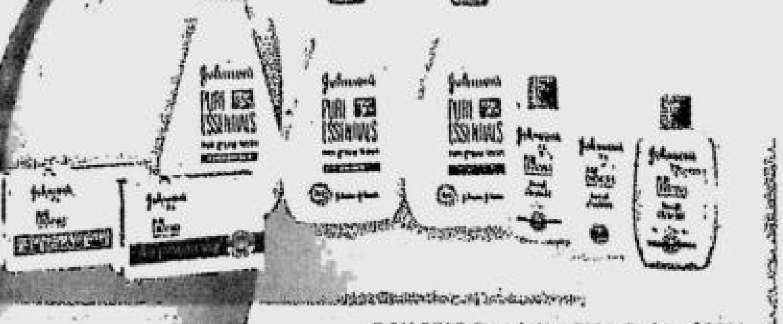
No. of Hoops	Prize
1 hoop	None
2 hoops	Teen Bag
3 hoops	JPE Teddy Bear

PARTICIPATING OUTLETS:

GMA: Rustan's Shangri-La, Rustan's HP, Rustan's Cubao, Shopwise Alabang, Shopwise Vito-Cruz, South Alabang, South Valenzuela, South Malolos, South Sta. Rosa, Isetann Recto, Isetann Carriedo, Isetann Cubao, Cash & Carry, Landmark, Glori's Del Monte, Ever Commonwealth, Ever Recto, Ever Ortigas, Pure Gold, Cherry Foodarama Q.C., Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Tutuban, Robinson's Metropolis, Robinson's Ermita, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint, SM Super Sale, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Fairview, SM Makati, SM Marikina (Save More), SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, SM Pampanga **VISAYAS** CEBU: Gaisano Metro Ayala, Gaisano Colon, Whitegold, Gaisano Country Mall, Rustan's Supermarket, Robinson's Supermarket, SM Cebu ILOILO: SM City, SM Delgado, SM Jaro BACOLOD: Robinson's Bacolod, Gaisano Ballesteros, Lopue's Araneta **MINDANAO** CAGAYAN DE ORO: Gaisano Mall, Ororama Supercenter, Plaza Fair DAVAO: Gaisano Mall, Victoria Plaza, JS Gaisano.

See posters & flyers for details

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0091, Series of 2001



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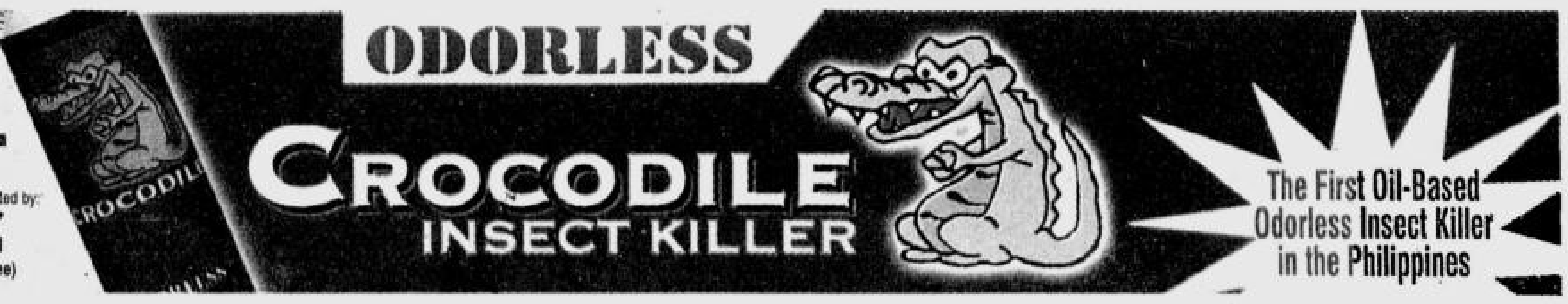

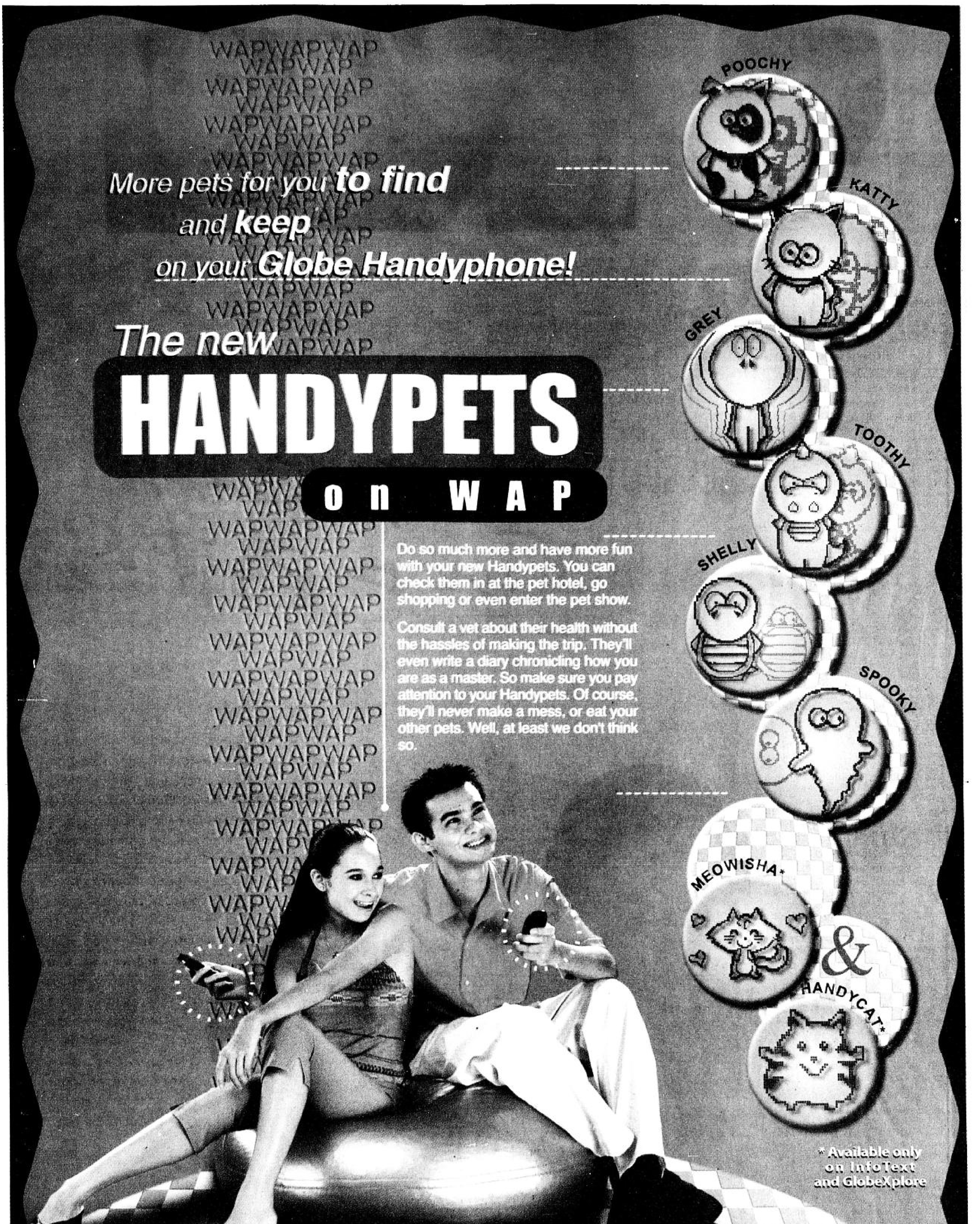

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Promo from March 16 to April 15, 2001, Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0706, Series of 2001

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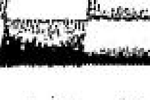
1



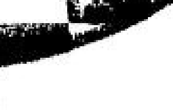
If you're a first time WAP-user, type in the keyword of your phone type* and send to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

Menu
Services
Home
Exit

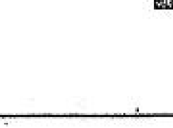
If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the Services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3



You will then see a prompt advising that you are being connected to the service.

4



Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on New Sites or Games, then to Wireless Games. Click "No" to register, if you are a first time user, then select Wireless Pets and wap away.

The keywords are: For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap; For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap; For Siemens M35-siemenswap; For Motorola T2288-motorolawap

wirelessgames.com

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For more information on your Handypet, visit:
www.wirelessgames.com/pets or www.globeinteractive.com.ph

Magaling magpagaling!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 26

WWW.INQUIRER.NET

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **Book Burial** Page 3
- **Summer Workshops** Page 4
- **Story: My First Pair of Pants** Page 6
- **The Lunch Box** Page 11

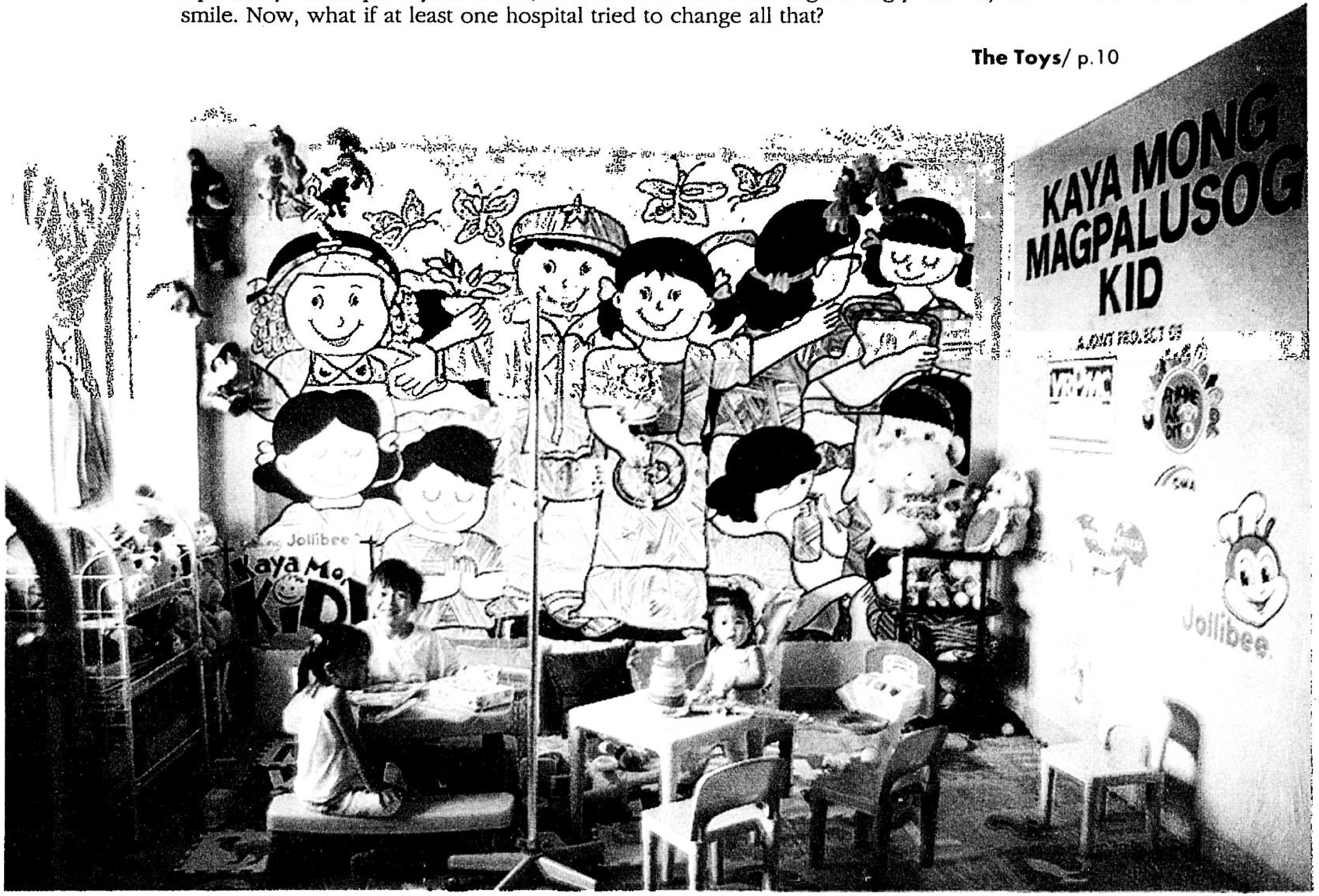
The Toys-'n-No-Tears Hospital Visit

Help "kiddify" this hospital's very own "Chikiting Corner"

WE KNOW how most hospital visits are like. You're sick. You're feeling woozy from the fever, maybe even a little chilly. Then you're brought to the hospital where it seems like too many people are moving at the same time.

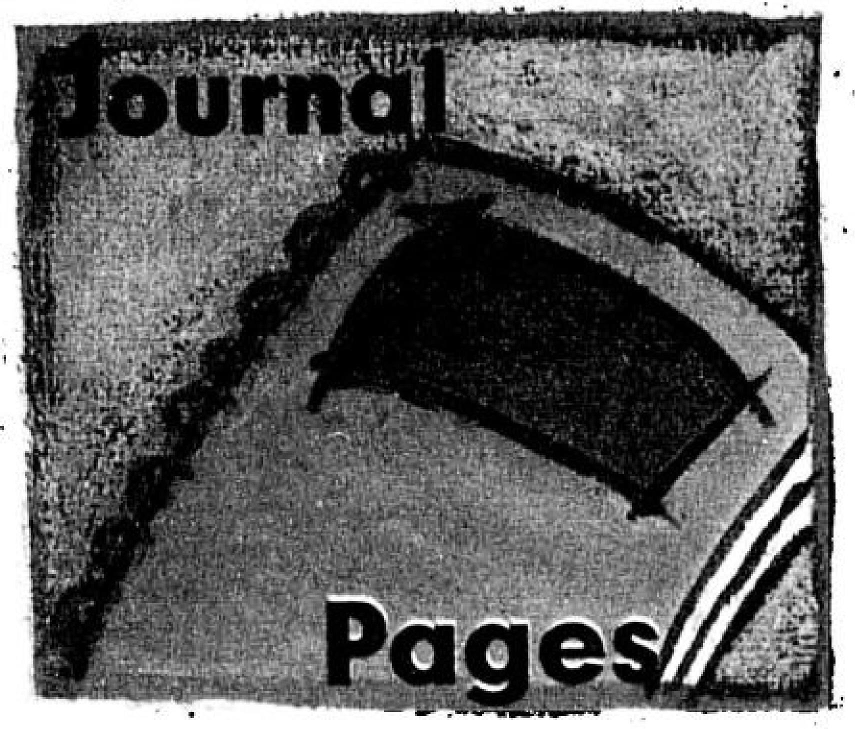
The walls are painted a dull white and there are funny smells everywhere. Everyone seems to want to squint at you and poke you. Worse, the doctor or nurse holding that ugly little injection needle doesn't even smile. Now, what if at least one hospital tried to change all that?

The Toys/ p.10



NOT SO SCARY. In this hospital corner, you'll feel much, much better.

ROMY HOMILLADA



Magic in 'Harry Potter'

BY RED PIEDAD
GRADE 7, COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS
QUEZON CITY

I WOULD like to speak on behalf of my classmates and friends who really enjoyed reading "Harry Potter." I've heard rumors that these books are demonic and against the Christian religion because the characters live in a world where magic and witchcraft is real.

But "Harry Potter" isn't the only story that tells of magic. Why are people picking on it?

J.K. Rowling, the author of the "Harry Potter" series, and Roald Dahl have many things in common. They both write children's books and they both wrote about witches and giants, magic and other creatures. In "The BFG," Dahl wrote about witches and giants, in "The Magic Finger," he wrote about magic and in "The Twits," Dahl had characters that weren't really human. So why aren't people picking on Dahl, too?

Just because a story includes wizards, witches, elves, giants and other mythical creatures does not mean it is demonic.

Magic makes Harry Potter's story more colorful and imaginative. Every book is unique. I hope people don't judge the book before they read it. So before you criticize a story, read it first.

Besides, I think it's better to read books like the Harry Potter series rather than play too many computer games. Some games are so violent. These computer games just might ruin your eyesight and waste your parents' money. Reading books is better because it sharpens your imagination and builds your vocabulary.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

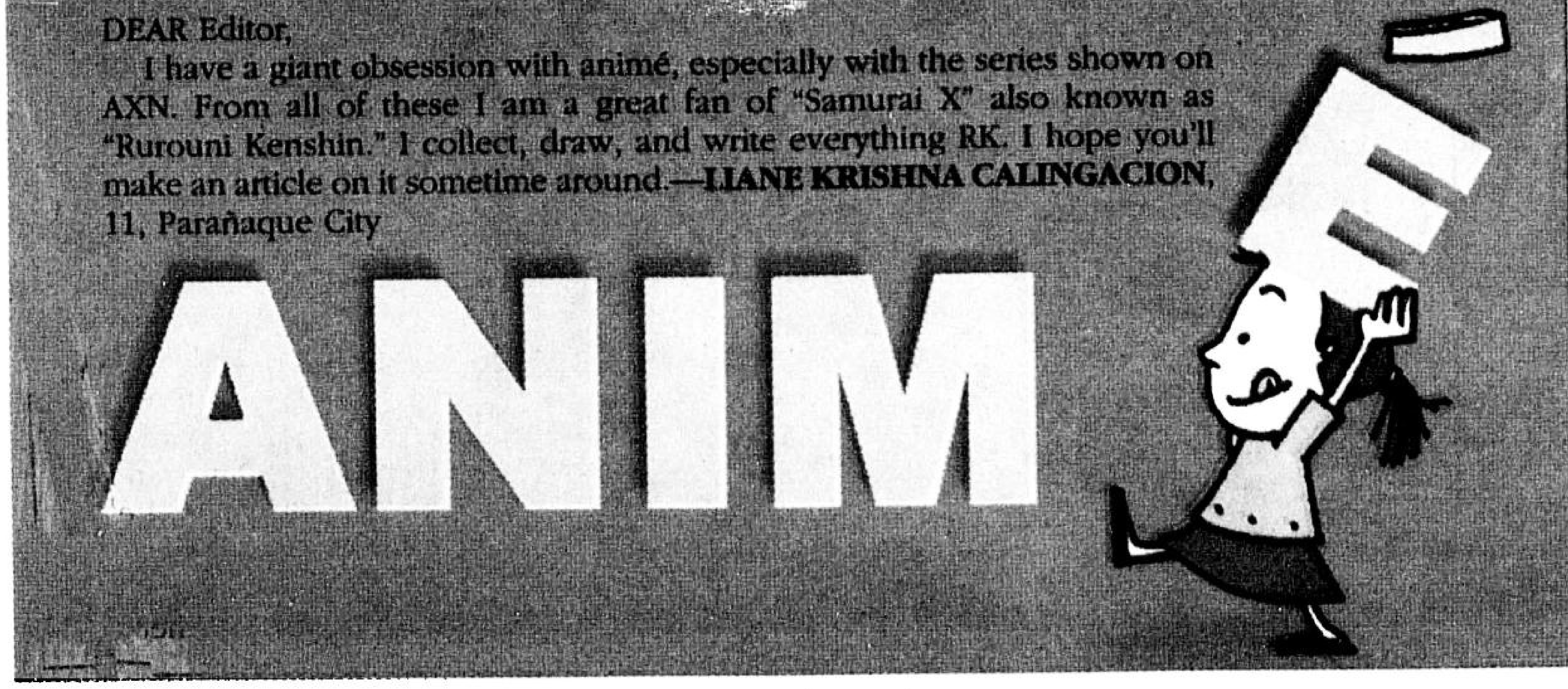
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

More on animé

DEAR Editor,

I have a giant obsession with animé, especially with the series shown on AXN. From all of these I am a great fan of "Samurai X" also known as "Rurouni Kenshin." I collect, draw, and write everything RK. I hope you'll make an article on it sometime around.—**LIANE KRISHNA CALINGACION**, 11, Parañaque City



Junior INQUIRER

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Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.

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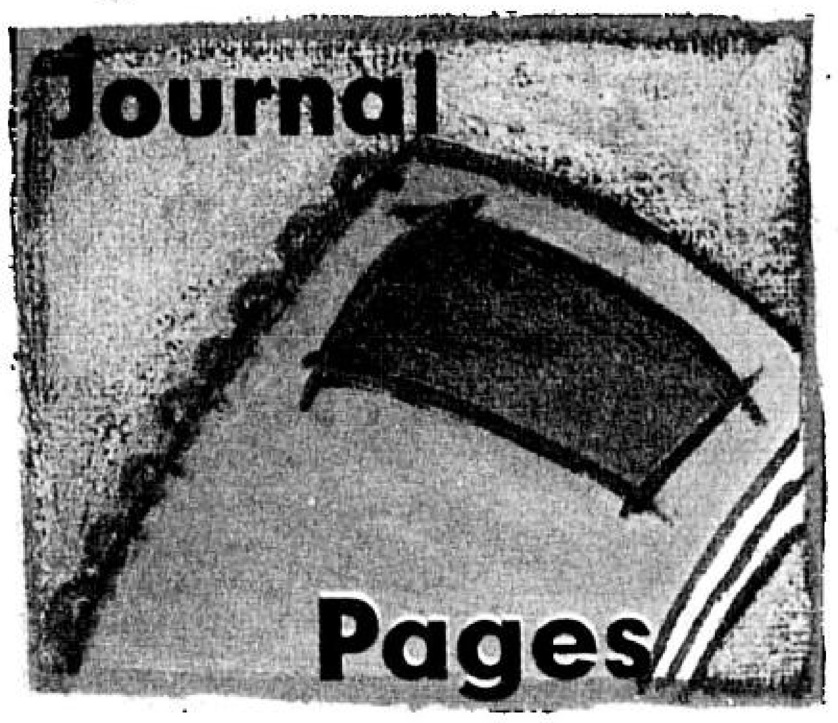

Magic in 'Harry Potter'

BY RED PIEDAD
GRADE 7, COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS
QUEZON CITY

I WOULD like to speak on behalf of my classmates and friends who really enjoyed reading "Harry Potter." I've heard rumors that these books are demonic and against the Christian religion because the characters live in a world where magic and witchcraft is real.

But "Harry Potter" isn't the only story that tells of magic. Why are people picking on it?

J.K. Rowling, the author of the "Harry Potter" series, and Roald Dahl have many things in common. They both write children's books and they both wrote about witches and giants, magic and other creatures. In "The BFG," Dahl wrote about witches and giants, in "The Magic Finger," he wrote about magic and in "The Twits," Dahl had characters that weren't really human. So why aren't people picking on Dahl, too?

Just because a story includes wizards, witches, elves, giants and other mythical creatures does not mean it is demonic.

Magic makes Harry Potter's story more colorful and imaginative. Every book is unique. I hope people don't judge the book before they read it. So before you criticize a story, read it first.

Besides, I think it's better to read books like the Harry Potter series rather than play too many computer games. Some games are so violent. These computer games just might ruin your eyesight and waste your parents' money. Reading books is better because it sharpens your imagination and builds your vocabulary.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

More on animé

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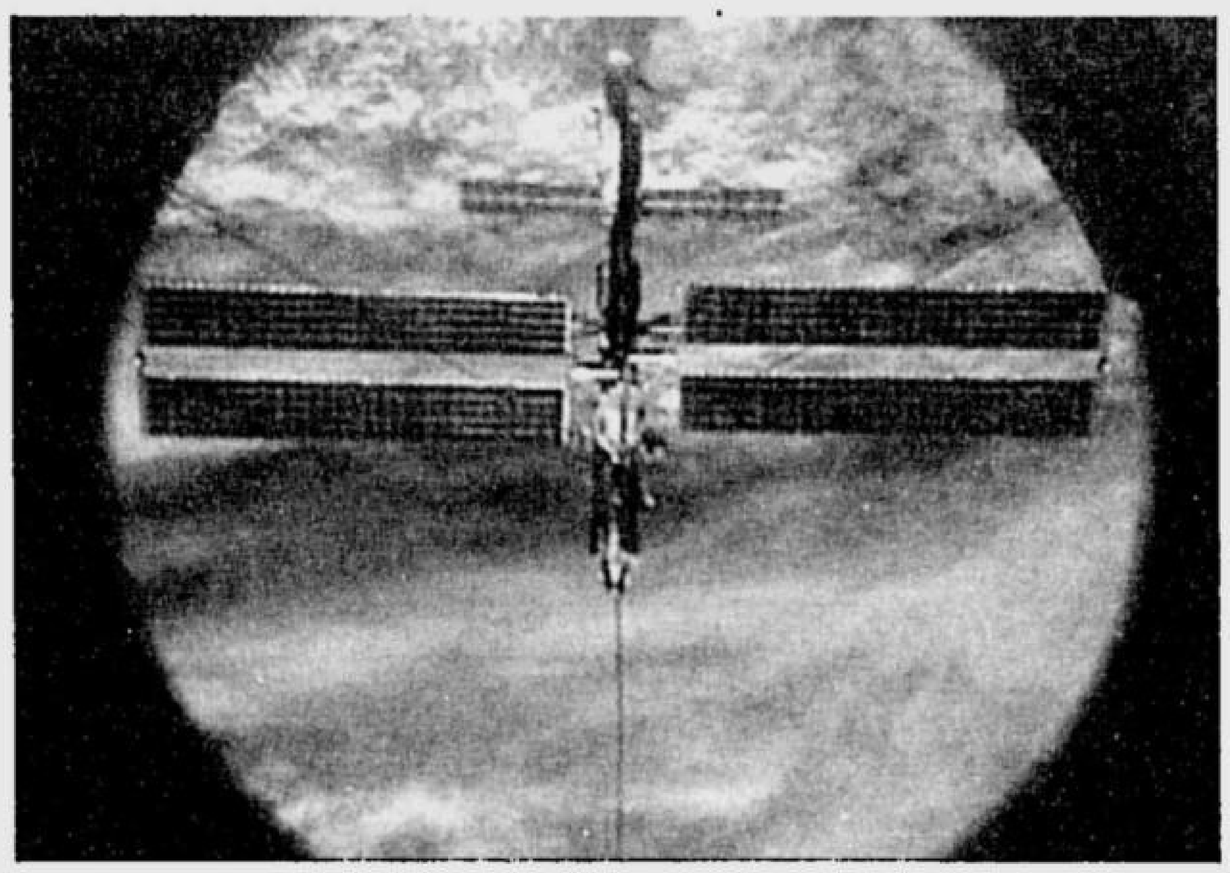
WORLD SCOPE

Stolen clams

NEW Philippine Navy Chief Rear Admiral Victorino Hingco, on the deck of a navy ship, inspects giant clams which were seized from Chinese fishermen off the contested Scarborough Shoal on South China Sea, west of the Philippines. The giant clams were allegedly poached or stolen by Chinese fishermen near the Philippine sea. *AP*



Somewhere over the South Pacific

View from Discovery

A TV camera on the Discovery captured the International Space Station over the South Pacific during a routine fly-around after the pair undocked late March 18. The Discovery crew dropped off the second crew to live aboard the station during their eight-day stay. *AP*

Manila, Philippines
New Delhi, India
Vermont, USA

Sydney, Australia

No meat day

A DUTCH model displays a dress made out of fruits and vegetables in an awareness campaign to stop the slaughter of animals on the "Global Meat Out Day" held on March 18. The campaign was organized by the Animal Rights International and asked for the ban on killing of animals for human consumption or for use in making leather clothes. *AP*

Book burial

AN UNDATED picture shows students from the University of Western Sydney in Australia burying books on the Cambletown Campus. The university said they had buried 10,000 books in the mid to late1990's because they had no money to store them. *AP*

Out of this world odor

THERE is a contest for everything, even for the smelliest footwear. In the picture below, Nasa scientist George Aldrich takes time off from planning trips to outer space to judge in the Annual Rotten Sneaker contest in Montpelier, Vermont. Maybe Nasa plans to send the winning sneaker to Uranus, the smelliest planet. *AP*

YUMMY! Learn easy-to-cook, sumptuous recipes at Art Innovative's Kiddie Kitchen workshop. This made-easy kitchen course is for young chefs ages 7-15 years old. Classes start on April 23. For inquiries, get in touch with Neneth at 854-3496 or Ana at 727-4517.

STORYTELLING FUN. Adarna House invites you to join its Kuwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshops for Kids. Listen to wonderful stories and join workshops and activities on Philippine art, culture and history. Check out the schedule below:

- **April 18-21**, Powerbooks, G/F Mega A Bldg., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Kids ages 3-6: 10 a.m. to 12 nn; ages 7-10: 2-5 p.m.
- **April 25-28,** Powerbooks, Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Kids ages 3-6: 10 a.m. to 12 nn; ages 7-10: 2-5 p.m.
- **May 2-5,** Powerbooks, G/F Corte de Las Palmas, Alabang Town Center. Kids ages 3-6: 10 a.m. to 12 nn; ages 7-10: 2-5 p.m.

Call up 410-5200 and look for Odette or Ghie for more details. You may also send an e-mail to admin@adarna.com.ph

FOR MUSIC LOVERS. The Ryan Cayabyab the Music Studio invites young singers to their summer workshops. "Music and Movement"is open for kids ages 3-7. Using various teaching methods to introduce children to music concepts and elements. Also there are other individual voice and piano lessons. Enrollment is now ongoing. For inquiries call up 844-3330 or 843-2874.

ART'S COOL. Summer's hot, but art is definitely cool in "Art's Cool," Museo Pambata's summer workshops program. Try out these classes in painting, theater arts, crafts, and language.

The art and painting class is open to students 4 to 16 years old and focuses on basic drawing, pastel, watercolor and oil painting. Classes will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday beginning April 17, except for the language arts workshop which will he held on Saturdays beginning April 21. Workshop fee is inclusive of materials. To enroll in "Art's Cool," visit Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila or call 5231797-98. Last day of enrolment is on April 16, 2001.

FUN READING. R.E.A.D at Psychpros invites book and story lovers out there to "Heat the Books." Interested kids ages 4-12 years old may drop by with their parents at Agcor Bldg., Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For more details about the fee and schedule, contact Psychpros at 436-0229 or text them at 0919-8456892, 0917-9468126 and look for Teachers Lani and Angie.

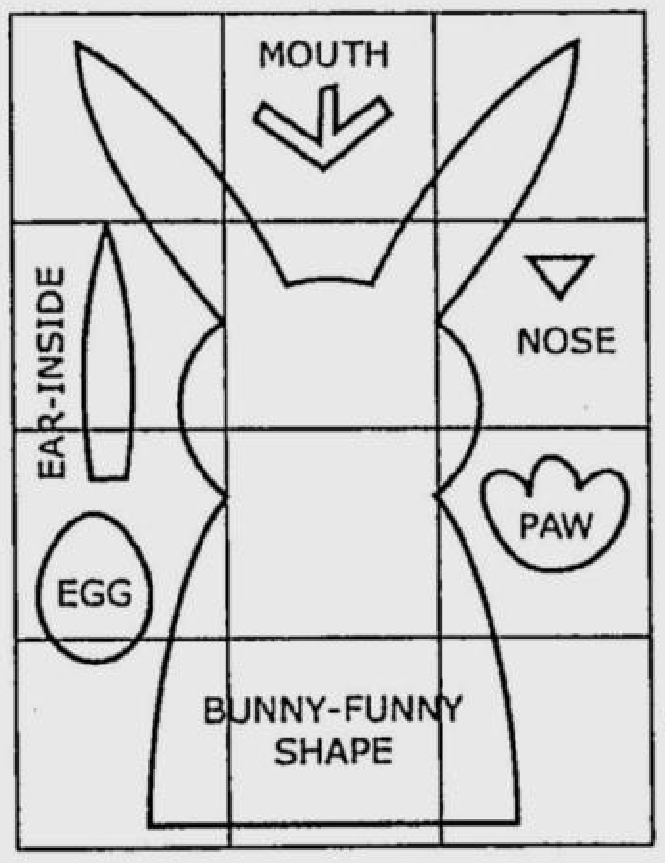
YOUNG WRITERS. Improve your writing skills in Tower Book House's summer writing workshop. Young writers ages 9-18 are invited to join. For details call up 815-4938, 815-6925 or drop by Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

LEARNING CAMP. Sacred Heart School invites kids 1-½-8 years old to experience a free summer learning camp today, and on April 14, 28 and May 26. Learn and have fun with its line-up of activities: arts, crafts, cooking, storytelling, games, singing, dancing plus a lot more. Call 810-8506, 894-2273, 815-3058 for more details.

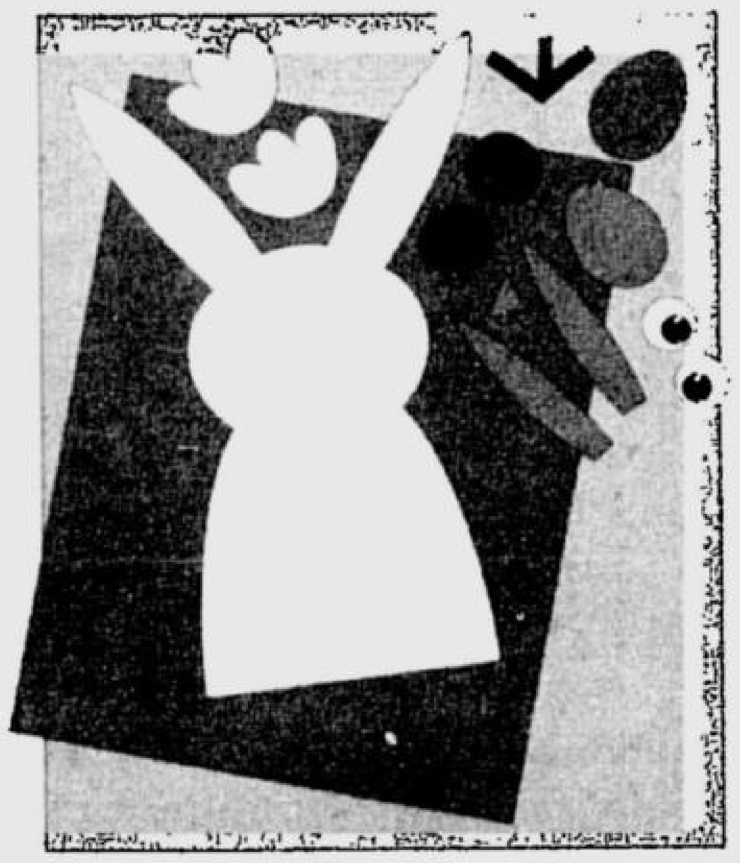
Something for Easter!

BUNNY-FUNNY Craft Card

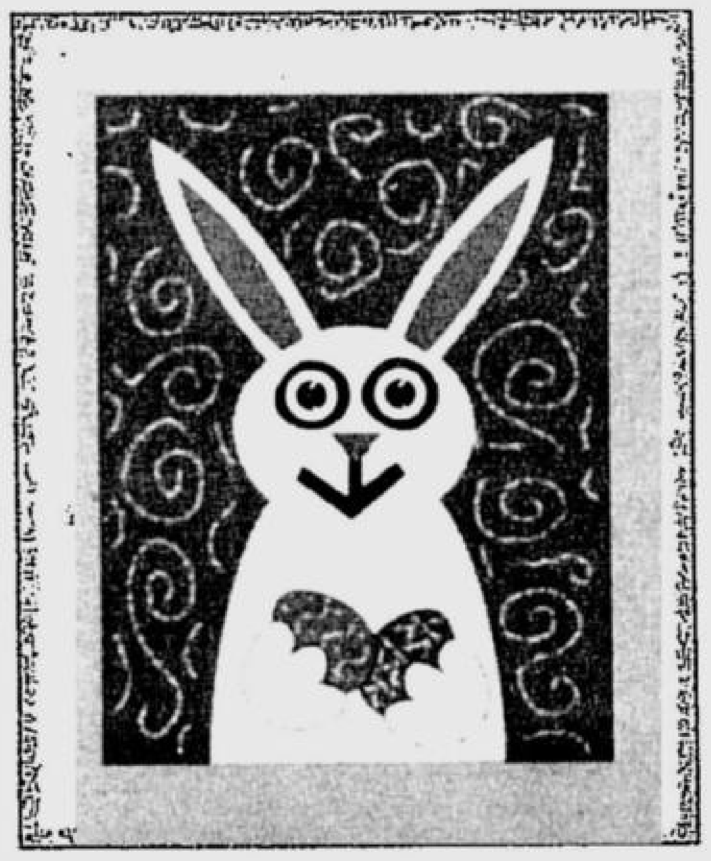
BY MITZI AGUILAR REYES



EACH SQUARE = 1" X 1"



CUT OUT ALL THE SMALL SHAPES BEFORE GLUEING



USE THE GLITTER GLUE TO DECORATE BUNNY-FUNNY

WITH some simple materials you can make this Bunny-Funny craft card.You will need some handmade paper, colored construction paper (red, pink, black), glitter glue, white glue, a glue-stick, and some wiggly eyes, which can be purchased from Divisoria, the center of the universe. Alternatively, the Kids at Art Workshop and Cravings offers the Creators Craft Card kits which makes these materials available, pre-packed in the amounts you need for this project.

Cut a rectangle from handmade paper 5" x 8" and fold it in half crosswise.This will constitute the body of your card. Cut a smaller rectangle (3" x 4") from red construction paper and use white glue to stick the colored paper to the center of the card front. Spread a little gold glitter glue on the construction paper to make the background for Bunny-Funny.

Before you move on to the next step, keep in mind how your card will open when it's finished. This way you won't make any mistakes when you're sticking all the other pieces on your card.

Cut the outline (including his floppy ears) of Bunny-Funny from beige construction paper and if the glitter glue is still wet place this on your background, otherwise use the glue-stick to stick his shape to the background. Cut two paws from the same paper.Cut out two eggs, one from the red, and one from the pink construction paper. From the pink paper cut out his triangle nose and his ear-insides. Cut two circular shapes (slightly bigger than the wiggly eyes) and an arrow from the black paper. Using the glue-stick, glue on Bunny-Funny's ear-insides, the black circles for his eyes, the arrow (pointing down) for his mouth, and the two eggs. Then glue on his paws so that it looks like he's holding the eggs. Finish your Bunny-Funny card by gluing a pair of wiggly eyes on it, and using the glitter glue to decorate the eggs and the background.

Blast fishing can be stopped by something more powerful.

Public opinion.

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

WWF

INQUIRER

The shooting of rare animals will remain unknown.

Unless we shoot back.

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

WWF

INQUIRER

SOLD OUT — because we don't sell out.
COMET
METRO RECORD
Stormy weather today in wide area in South
INQUIRER
LAST QUARTER STORM

Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide?* Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across *all* age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). **To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.**

***According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

News that makes a difference.

www.inquirer.net

My First Pair of Pant

"Skirts are fine. But sometimes, pants are cooler"

Story by Louie-An M. Pilapil
Illustrations by Lyra A. Garcellano

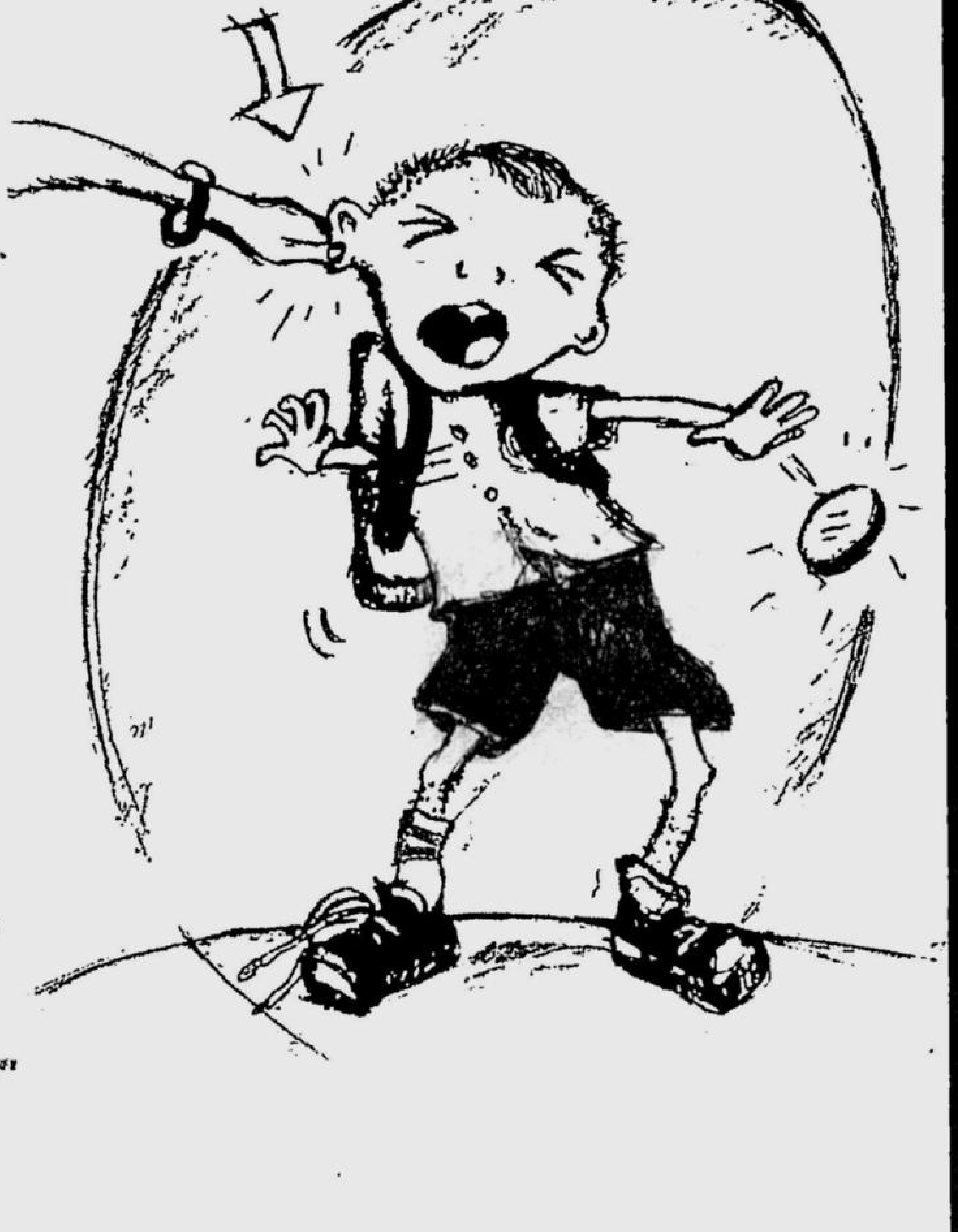
I USED to wear skirts all the time, I wore them at my friends' birthday parties and at family reunions. I had every skirt design there was: pleated, ballooned, A-lined. My skirts had all kinds of prints: blue elephants holding pink flowers with their trunks, yellow flowers, red flowers, orange flowers, green flowers and violet leaves. . .

They were okay to wear—at first. I wore them to school as part of my uniform. Our skirt uniform had to be checkered and in black and white. Skirts were nice to wear. They were comfortable and, of course, at the time, stylish. My grandmother either bought skirts for me in stores or had them made by her favorite seamstress.

I wore skirts at home. I helped my grandmother clean our house in them. Wearing them, I helped her cook our food. I bathed the dog while wearing a skirt. I did everything—from sweeping the fallen leaves from the garden to climbing guava trees—in a skirt. Wearing one never bothered me. Until I turned 11.

One of my boy classmates brought a mirror to school one day. I found that quite odd because I thought only girls brought mirrors with them to school because they usually combed their hair more times than boys did. The boy stood beside one of my girl classmates during flag ceremony. I saw him bend down and tie his loose shoelaces. And then, he did an odd thing. He put the mirror on top of his shoe and placed his foot in between my girl classmates slightly parted feet. I wondered then why he did that and why he kept on winking at his friends who were in the other line.

"And then, he did an odd thing. He put the mirror on top of his shoe and placed his foot in between my girl classmates slightly parted feet."



I got more curious when I saw our class adviser go up to my boy classmate and drag him by the ear. My girl classmate was dumbfounded by what happened and when she realized what the boy had done, she cried

AFTER that incident, my other female classmates and I really conscious about how we carried ourselves. We di near any of the boys for quite sometime. We started wear slips or extra undergarments. We even donned walkin beneath our skirts.

I had to be very careful when I played *piko*. I did not skirt to be blowing carelessly in the wind while I walked. gather it between my legs whenever a strong breeze bl really angry with girls who raised my skirt as part of a g were playing.

It was at this time that I thought of buying pants.

I asked my mother and grandmother to buy a pair of orrents.

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FOR or By KIDS

me. To my dismay, they both did not want to. They said I was too young to wear pants, and besides, I looked better in skirt.

My discomfort grew. I wore shorts instead of skirts and my relatives began to notice. I helped clean the house in shorts. I bathed the dog in shorts. Everything I did, I did in shorts!

And I reveled in my new wardrobe! I did not have to gather cloth between my legs anymore. I could walk without worrying about the breeze blowing off my clothes and embarrassing me. I could walk without the restrictions that usually came with wearing skirts.

I begged my mom to buy me pants.

SHE AGREED and even asked me to go shopping for the precious pair with her. I settled for a gorgeous pair of dark blue jeans with giant golden stitches on the side and on the back pockets.

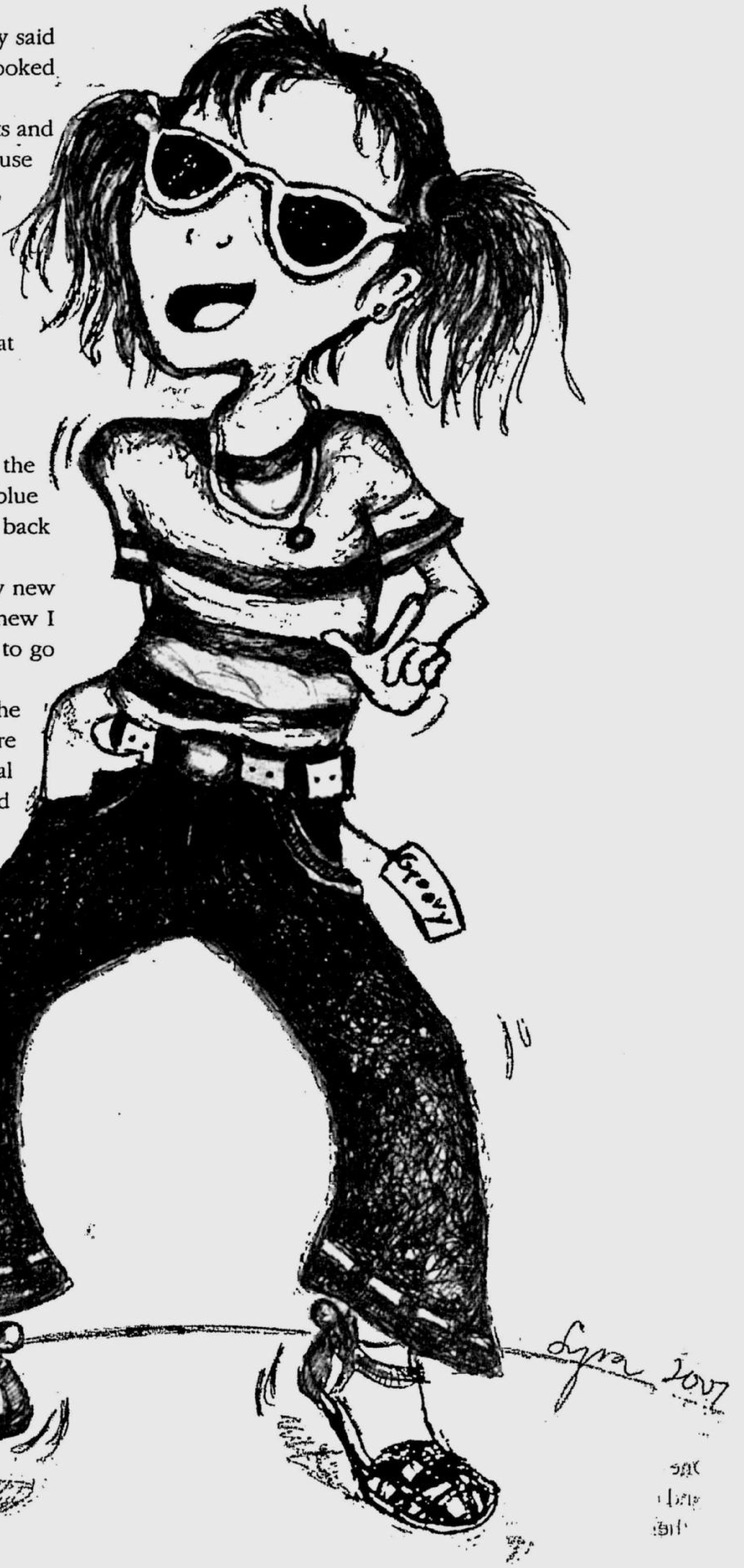
They fit me just fine and I was ecstatic at the feeling my new pants gave me. They were a bit stiff at first but then I knew I would get used to them. We even bought a shiny red belt to go with my new pants!

I still wore skirts to school and at home but I relished the feeling of being able to wear pants. I thought pants were more stylish. Sometimes I'd wear really groovy skirts on special occasions. I only wore them at times when I knew I would not be doing too much activity. I still like wearing skirts but not as much as I did before.

And my male classmates? Well, they grew up and learned a lot about respect after that incident. It was good that they did. Otherwise, we would never have gone near them again—ever!

***Louie-An**, 25, is an MA student of Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines and is a writer for the news website of a TV network.*

***Lyra** is the creator of "The Adventures of Atomo & Weboy" and is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*



Megan Makes Things Happen

From trick-or-treat to bike lessons, this kid sure knows how to keep things fun

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

Kids'r'rrific

"EYES ON THE ROAD!" Megan tells her pupil pal.

HALLOWEEN was just around the corner and Megan Manzano was typing up a storm. On the computer, she was making dozens and dozens of letters to all the kids in her neighborhood. Was it a secret spooky plot guaranteed to give grown-ups the sheet-white shivers? (cue thunder and lightning special effects) KRAKADOOM!

Close. It was a secret all right but, to the grow-ups' relief, it was a pleasant, though ghoulish, surprise.

LET the good times... rollerblade!

The Party Planner

"She had organized the kids to go trick-or-treating," says Megan's obviously delighted mom, "and they even made their own costumes!"

"I just thought it would be fun," Megan pipes up, grinning. This ten year old who is always bursting with energy—believe us, it's hard to make Megan stay put—is also brimming with lots of ideas for fun get-togethers with her pals.

"This summer, I'm going to have more free time so I was thinking, I'd make a club. I'll organize it more and I'm going to have more parties," she tells us, "I'm going to write letters and distribute it again to all the kids in the neighborhood so we can have more members."

Megan hopes to come up soon with an Easter egg hunt and, later, another costumed trick-or-treat extravaganza, a Christmas party as well as other exciting just-for-kids events. To raise funds, she says she'll be making a donation box for club members to voluntarily give part of their allowance. Of course, that includes her too.

Free lessons!

Teaching friends to ride a bike or rollerblade also keeps Megan on his wheels...er, toes. "She's a good teacher. Megan talks to you and makes you feel comfortable," says Alex, Megan's best buddy who lives right across the street. Megan taught Alex' five-year-old brother, Ramby, how to bike and rollerblade too.

Megan/p. 9

R U 'RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ______, ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No. ____________________

Birthday and Edsa 2

AN ESSAY BY ABIEL JORDAN A. PASCUAL
QUEZON CITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

IT WAS the third day of People Power at Edsa 2 (counting Jan. 16 as the first day) but it was an ordinary Thursday school in my little world. I wondered why classes in the public high school were not suspended. I could have also gone to Edsa to be part of history, just like my dad and mom did in '86. I was born a year after that historic event so I was more of a listener to my parents' experiences.

The alarm clock rang the usual 5 a.m. My mind was alerted but my body wanted to linger in my warm bed. The cool air of January lured me to stay some more after a long night of home work in Earth Science.

Mom peered through my open room for her usual check. I paused to say my good morning to her and to the Lord. After mustering all my will, off I went to the chilly bathroom. I felt happy as the shower went slushhh and I went brrrrr.

It was not an ordinary day after all. I turned 14th that day! How fast time went. It was only just a year ago when I went through a dedication ceremony marking my entry to the teenage life.

Papa and Mama were up much earlier. I went down for my breakfast and I saw on my plate a neatly wrapped box. My parents greeted me and sang "Happy Birthday!"

Hooray, I got my wish: two prepaid cellphone cards! Best of all, Papa and Mama surprised me with a promise that we would all go to Edsa after school! Edsa 2? Wow, that deserved hooray 2!

Not for long the school bus honked its familiar call and off to school I went with an excitement I never felt before.

AS SOON as the afternoon bid its last streak of light, we started preparing for Edsa. Dad reminded us to wear black and to keep our backpacks light. A bottle of water, a cap, a handkerchief and a candle were musts for the night.

Excitement was building up in me. Before finally reaching the Edsa Shrine, we stopped for a quick birthday dinner with some close friends.

More excitement building up as the announcer on my radio kept listeners updated. Dad carefully drove our Tamaraw past many people.

I got more excited when I saw the usual north and south lanes of Edsa. Where vehicles usually rule the road, freedom-loving people now walked and talked. It was not for long, too that I found myself walking with the rest. Dad had to leave his vehicle still very far off the Edsa Shrine. Getting closer to THE direction, my heart was pounding with excitement.

"Erap Resign! Erap Resign! Erap Resign!"

"Hatol ng Bayan: Guilty si Erap! Guilty si Erap!"

The battle cry was throbbing in my ears and also in my being. We could no longer get any closer. We stopped within seeing distance of the stage. People were at my left and my right, in front and behind. Young people, students, the youth of our land.

I was one with them now—not only in thought but in person and whole being. A bonus experience was a time to personally shake hands with Mr. Dante Jimenez zand Mr. Lauro Vizconde.

Truly youth is not wasted on the young. I was thankful that my parents brought me to a new level of experience as I start another year of teenage life.

It was the third day of Edsa 2.
It was my birthday.
And I was in Edsa

Megan Makes Things Happen

(from page 8)

"I tell them, when you're rollerblading, first you have to form a V with your feet. Then with one foot, you kind of make the V longer, like a check mark. Then you do the same with the other foot," is Megan's expert rollerblading advice. To keep from falling on your butt—happens a lot to us too—Megan suggests, "Make only little Vs." Note: it works for ice-skating too!

For biking, check out the box below for some of Megan's tips.

Gal Pal

Why does Megan go to all that trouble for her pals? "When I have problems who else can I go to?" she says "Being with friends" is the first thing she'll mention among her favorite things to do. "Friends help you out when you need them," Megan points out, "if I have many friends, I could have more advice."

In good times and even in not-so-good times, for Megan, more people to hang out with is definitely merrier.

Bike without Going "Yikes!"

Says Megan, "Don't move the bike too much. To balance, just look straight. Don't look at the road or you might fall!"

The secret to keeping calm: "You have to be relaxed. Think that you're just riding a bike, nothing else."

100% Don't forget advice: "Always wear safety gear like helmets and pads."

The Toys-'n-No. . .

(from page1)

"Kaya mong magpalusog, Kid"

That hospital is the Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (VRPMC), a big hospital you can see along Edsa. With the help of Jollibee and Chikiting Patrol, they launched in February the "Kaya Mong Magpalusog Kid" Project.

As part of the project, two charity wards on the Pediatrics floor were transformed into what is now called the "Chikiting Corner." This is a comfy colorful corner in each ward where you can read, play or just hug a teddy bear while waiting for your doctor. You can go on hugging that teddy bear while they give you your injection.

The nurses here wear pretty uniforms with cartoon character designs and everyone, they promise, smiles.

Now, if you're not sick and you're just visiting someone in the hospital, with the doctor's permission, you can hang out at the Chikiting Corner too.

Got any extra books? Toys?

Murals by Katrina A. Castro and Promil-kid Christiana Jade "CJ" de Silva which won Jollibee's "Kayang Mong Magdrawing Kid" contest were painted in each ward. The floor was then covered with those big multicolored rubber tile puzzles. There are small shelves for books and toys and lots of cute Little Tykes furniture to sit on, all of which were donated by a bunch of really nice people. There are also toys on the beds and cribs in both wards but they sure could use a lot more.

Got any extra books and toys you wouldn't mind giving away? Check the junk under your bed or in your closet, we're pretty sure you've got something. Even old crayons would be much appreciated. If you'd like to help out, ask your mom or your dad to bring your stuff to the office of VRPMC's hospital administrator, Virma Vergel de Dios.

Stay healthy!

Soon there will also be storytelling sessions for the kids confined at VRPMC just to make their stay more fun and, hopefully, help them get better faster. For those kids whose families can't bring them to the hospital, the "Kaya Mong Magpalusog Kid" project will later offer free clinics and lectures on hygiene and nutrition.

Of course, all hospitals do their best to try to make sick kids well, but nothing beats not getting sick at all. Have a healthy summer everyone!!!

In case ya didn't know...

PEDIATRICS is the kind of medicine doctors study when they want to treat only kids and babies. That's why a doctor for kids is called a "pediatrician." Pediatrics, by the way, comes from two Greek words: "paidos" which means "a child" and "iatros" which means "a healer." So a pediatrician is literally a "child healer." Neat, huh?

¿ThinkathoN?

By Bong Barrameda

For Christ's Sake

DO you know Jesus well? Take this test and see if you can truly be in His good graces. Godspeed!

1. Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem and it was part of–
    - Canaan
    - Judea
    - Galilee
2. "Jesus" is Greek for the Hebrew "Joshua," a name meaning–
    - "God is great"
    - "God saves"
    - "God cares"
3. "Christ" is actually a title derived from the Greek *christos* which means-
    - "Anointed One"
    - "Messiah"
    - "Son of God"
4. His first miracle was-
    - walking on water
    - turning water into wine
    - raising the dead
5. Which of the following was an Apostle of Christ?
    - Matthew
    - Mark
    - Luke
6. Where did Jesus spend 40 days of fasting and meditation?
    - wilderness
    - temple
    - lakeshore
7. According to Jesus, who shall see God?
    - "the meek"
    - "the peacemakers"
    - "the pure in heart"
8. On what day did the Last Supper take place?
    - Thursday
    - Friday
    - Sunday
9. In Latin, the place where Jesus was crucified is known as Calvary. What is the Hebrew word for this place which means "skull"?
    - Capernaum
    - Gethsemane
    - Golgotha
10. According to most sources, how old was Jesus when he died?
    - 25
    - 33
    - 40
11. To whom did Jesus first appear after his resurrection?
    - Mother Mary
    - Mary Magdalene
    - St. John
12. How many days after the Resurrection did the Ascension take place?
    - 10
    - 20
    - 40

Answers:

1. Judea
2. "God saves"
3. "Anointed One"
4. turning water into wine
5. Matthew
6. wilderness
7. "the pure in heart"
8. Thursday
9. Golgotha
10. 33
11. Mary Magdalene
12. 40

Ratings :

superbrain!
11- 12

excellent!
9 -10

good!
6 - 8

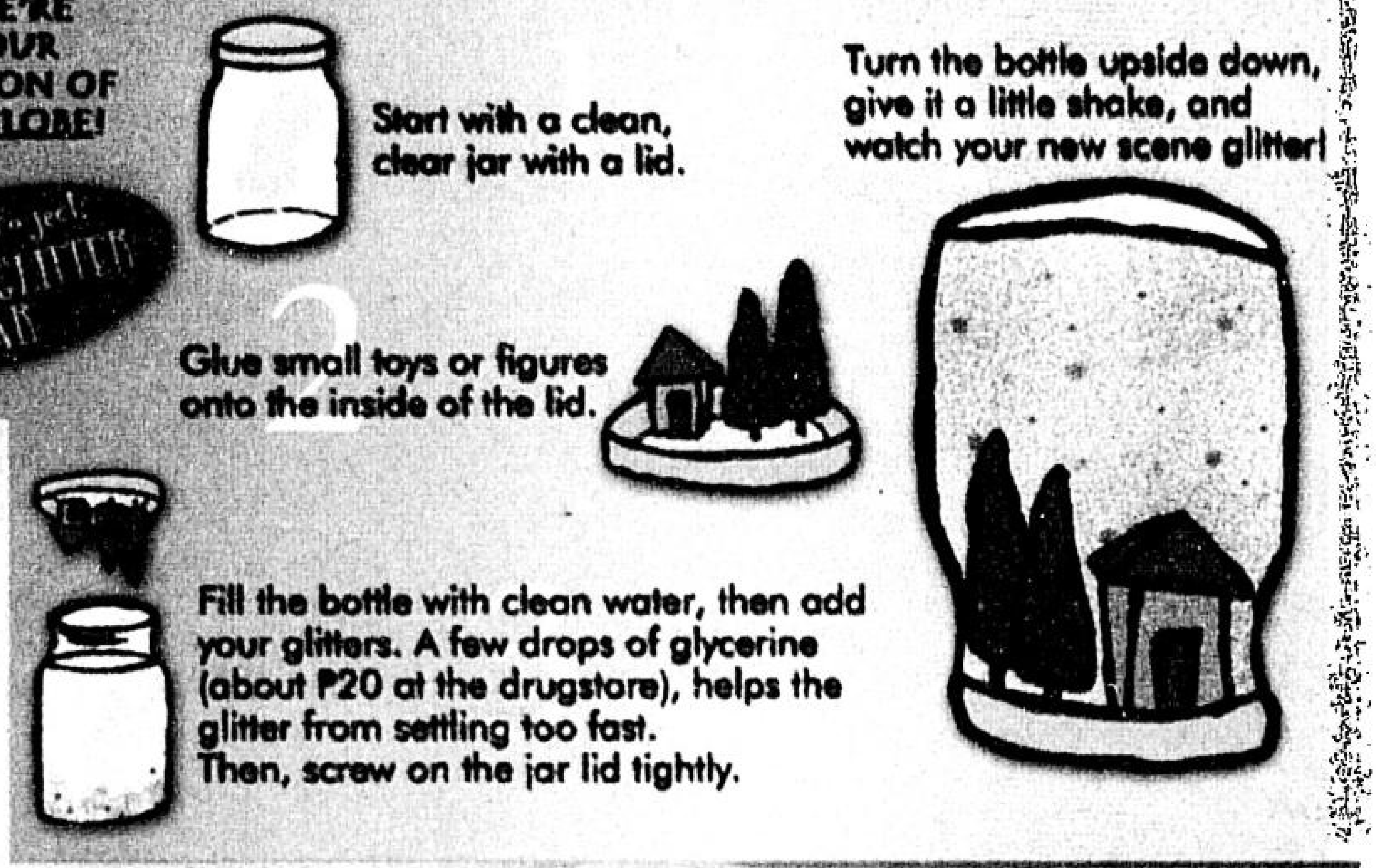
Oops!

In our 'Island-Hopping' quiz (17 March 2001), "Spain" appeared twice in the "Country" selection column. The "O" choice should have been "Japan." Thanks to Maximo Aquilizan of Las Pinas City for pointing out the slip.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

[illegible] N. Craft soon-to-be-famous, all-around creative GUY!
TODAY WE'RE MAKING OUR OWN VERSION OF A SNOWGLOBE!
today's project: GROOVY GLITTER JAR



Start with a clean, clear jar with a lid.

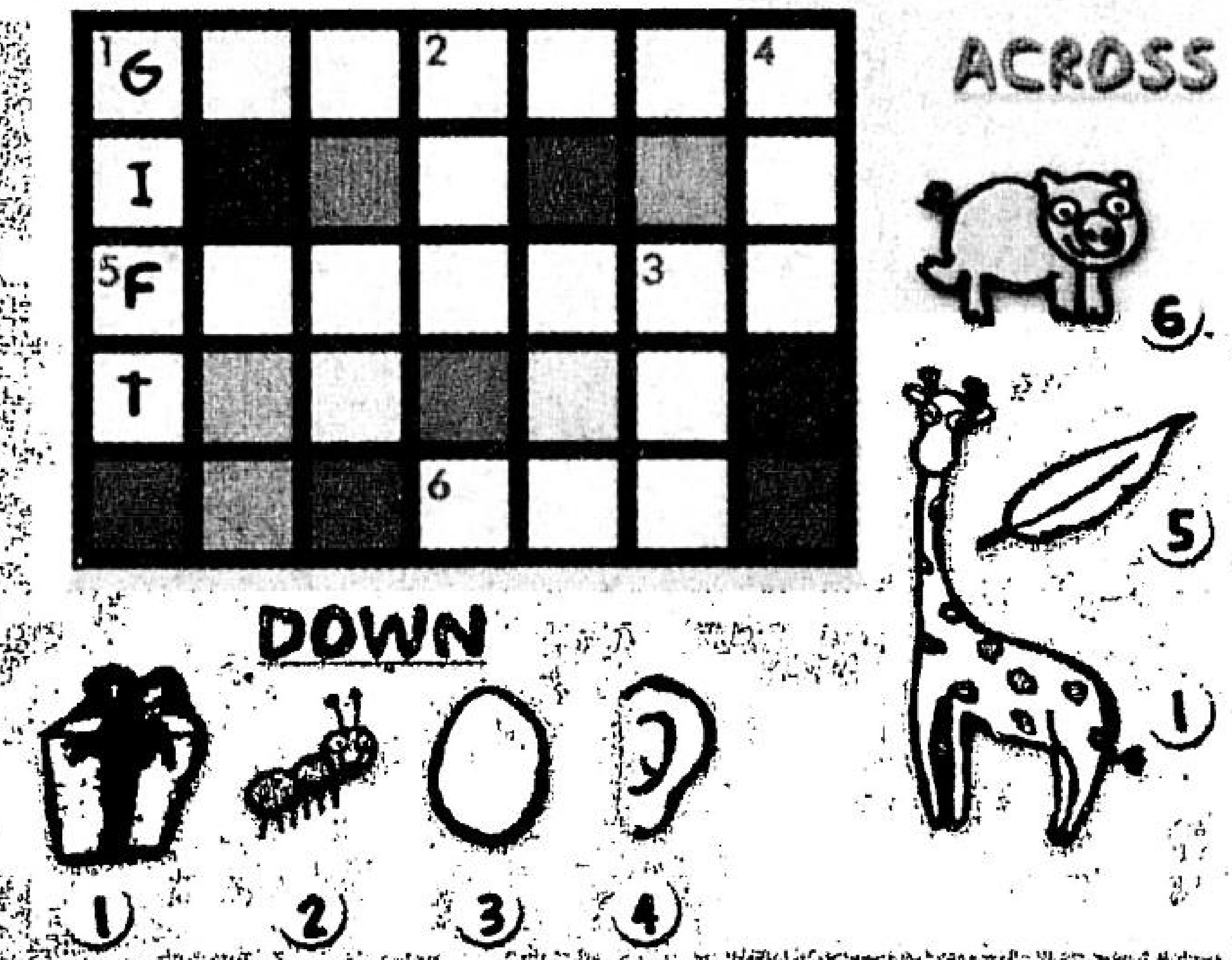
Glue small toys or figures onto the inside of the lid.

Fill the bottle with clean water, then add your glitters. A few drops of glycerine (about P20 at the drugstore), helps the glitter from settling too fast. Then, screw on the jar lid tightly.

Turn the bottle upside down, give it a little shake, and watch your new scene glitter!

PICTURE CROSSWORD

Complete the puzzle by filling in the white boxes with the objects' names. Number 1 down has been done for you.


1 G
I
5 F
T
2
3
4
6
ACROSS
6
5
1
DOWN
1
2
3
4

Where is the tallest mountain found?
Who invented the telephone?
What's a bonsai?

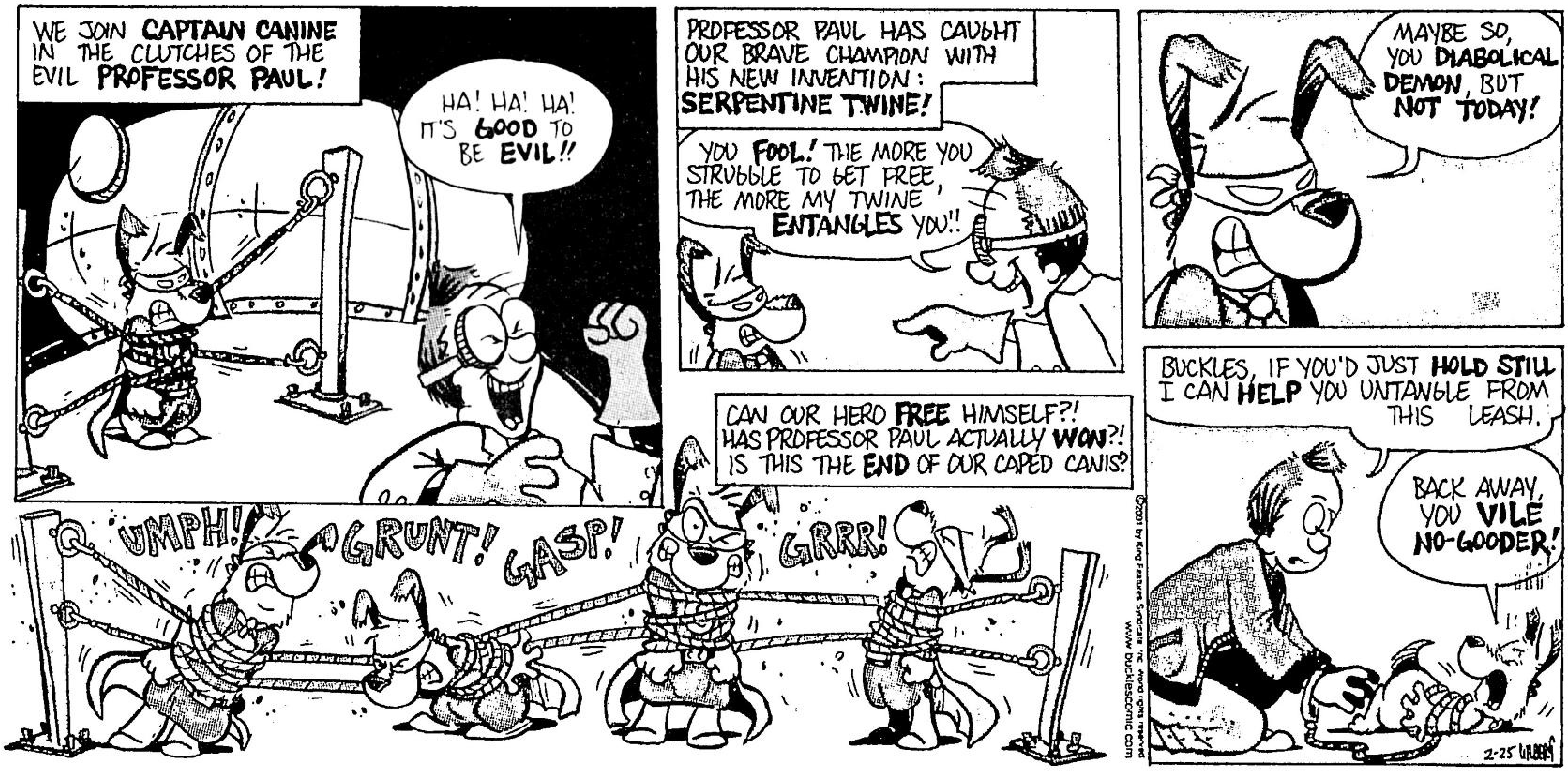
ASK BENJAMIN!

Send your questions on science and nature to our very own resident researcher. If your question is published we'll send you a fun sticker from THE LUNCH BOX!

Write to us at thelunchbox@[illegible]
Remember to include your name, [illegible]

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WE JOIN CAPTAIN CANINE IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE EVIL PROFESSOR PAUL!
HA! HA! HA! IT'S GOOD TO BE EVIL!!
PROFESSOR PAUL HAS CAUGHT OUR BRAVE CHAMPION WITH HIS NEW INVENTION: SERPENTINE TWINE!
YOU FOOL! THE MORE YOU STRUGGLE TO GET FREE, THE MORE MY TWINE ENTANGLES YOU!!
MAYBE SO, YOU DIABOLICAL DEMON, BUT NOT TODAY!
UMPH!
GRUNT!
GASP!
GRRR!
CAN OUR HERO FREE HIMSELF?! HAS PROFESSOR PAUL ACTUALLY WON?! IS THIS THE END OF OUR CAPED CANIS?
BUCKLES, IF YOU'D JUST HOLD STILL I CAN HELP YOU UNTANGLE FROM THIS LEASH.
BACK AWAY, YOU VILE NO-GOODER!
2-25 GILBERT

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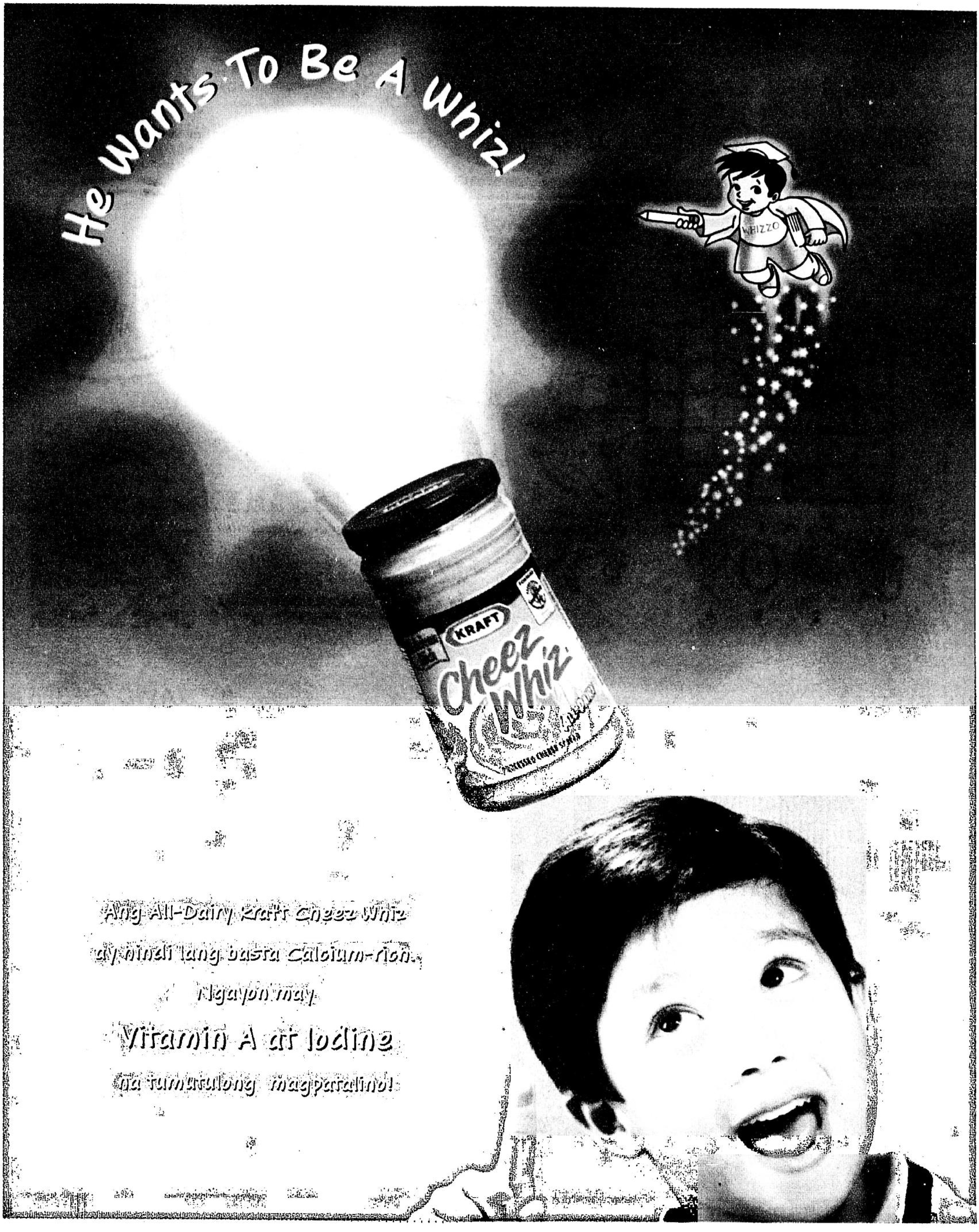
He Wants To Be A Whiz!
WHIZZO
KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
PROCESSED CHEESE SPREAD

Ang All-Dairy Kraft Cheez Whiz

ay hindi lang basta Calcium-rich.

Ngayon may

Vitamin A at Iodine

na tumutulong magpatalino!